

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
PROPOSED SECURITY FORCES
OPERATIONS FACILITY

Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado



Prepared by

Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence
Project Execution Division
July 2006

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14. ABSTRACT <p>The United States Air Force (USAF) has prepared this EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed SFOF. The EA considers the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives, including the Proposed Action, for the proposed SFOF. The proposed SFOF is required to support the 460 Space Wing mission by providing a centralized facility that meets the requirements for an active-duty AFB. The environmental resources potentially affected by the proposed action and alternatives include: land use; socioeconomics; air quality; noise; soils; water resources; biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, and threatened, endangered or other sensitive species; hazardous materials and waste; solid waste and pollution prevention; transportation; utilities; and environmental justice. Based on the nature of the activities that would occur during the construction and operation of the SFOF, the USAF has determined that minimal or no adverse impacts to the above resources are anticipated.</p>				
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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SECURITY FORCES OPERATIONS FACILITY PROJECT
BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO**

AGENCY: United States Air Force, 460th Space Wing

BACKGROUND

The United States Air Force (USAF) conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and social consequences of constructing and operating a Security Forces Operations Facility (SFOF) at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code §4321 to §4370d), Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500-1508), and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) as promulgated in 32 CFR Part 989 (EIAP, 6 July 1999, as amended by 66 FR 16866, 28 March 2001). The EA is incorporated by reference herein.

PROPOSED ACTION

To support the mission requirements of the 460th Space Wing at Buckley AFB, the USAF proposes to construct and operate an SFOF that meets the requirements of Section I, 15.18.3, "Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations" of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 "Facilities Requirements." This project is part of the \$175 million, multi-year capital improvements program being implemented at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard Base into a fully functioning active duty AFB.

The SFOF will be a 35,683-square foot (3,315 square meter), two-story building that would allow the base to provide mobility processing, including equipping and training personnel along with receiving, storing, and issuing material to meet deployment mission requirements of the 460th Space Wing security forces. The new facility would include space for command operations, administrative functions, training, consolidated security forces with a law enforcement desk, two holding cells, a battle staff room, an investigation section, an arms vault, and a guard mount room.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the Proposed Action, a No-Action Alternative (as prescribed by CEQ regulations) and two action alternatives were considered and evaluated in the EA. Under the No Action Alternative, the SFOF would not be built, nor would the expanding mission at Buckley AFB be met. The USAF also evaluated two alternative sites at different locations on Buckley AFB for the SFOF.

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Consideration of effects described in the EA and a finding that they are not significant is a necessary and critical part of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as required by 40 CFR 1508.13. Significant criteria are defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 to consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and the context and intensity of impacts. The potential impacts of constructing and operating the SFOF are analyzed in detail in the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences section of the EA for the following resource areas and conditions: land use, socioeconomic, air quality, noise, soils, water resources, biological resources (including vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, and threatened, endangered and other sensitive species), hazardous materials and waste, solid waste and pollution prevention, transportation, utilities, and environmental justice. The analyses indicated that implementing the proposed action would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the quality of the natural or human environment. Best management practices described in the EA and incorporated into the

Proposed Action, including post-construction monitoring and documentation, are generally required of the proponent by laws, regulations, or USAF policies and are adopted by this decision.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the EIAP at 32 CFR Part 989 require public review of the EA before approval of the FONSI and implementation of any Proposed Action. The Draft EA was made available for a 30-day Federal, state, and local agency and public review and comment period through publication of a notice of availability in the 14 May 2006 edition of the *Denver Post* and in the 18 May 2006 edition of the *Aurora Sentinel*. Copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI were distributed to individuals on the project mailing list and to various federal, state, and local agencies. A hard copy of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI was made available for public review in libraries in Denver, Boulder, and Aurora, CO. The public comment period on the EA closed on 19 June 2006. The USAF received comments on the project from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the EIAP at 32 CFR Part 989, I conclude the environmental effects of the Proposed Action are not significant and therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for these projects and thus will not be prepared. The signing of this FONSI completes the USAF EIAP.

Approved:



DAVID W. ZIEGLER, Colonel, USAF
Commander

29 AUG 06

Date

**COVER SHEET
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR PROPOSED SECURITY FORCES OPERATIONS FACILITY
AT BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO**

Prepared by
Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence
Project Execution Division
Brooks Air Force Base, Texas 78235-5122

a. Responsible Agency: U.S. Air Force, 460 Space Wing

b. Proposed Action: The proposed action analyzed in the Security Forces Operations Facility (SFOF) Environmental Assessment (EA) is to construct and operate a SFOF at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado planned for Fiscal Year 2008. This project is included in the \$175 million, multi-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning the former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty Air Force base.

c. Written comments and inquiries regarding this document should be directed to: Mr. Bruce James, 460 CES/CEVP, 660 S. Aspen Street (Stop 86), Bldg. 1005, Room 254, Buckley AFB, Colorado 80011-9551; telephone (720) 845-7245; e-mail bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.

d. Privacy Advisory: Your comments on this EA are requested. Letters or other written or oral comments provided may be published in the Final EA and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portion of any public meeting or hearings or to fulfill requests for copies of the Final EA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EA. However, only the name of individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

e. Designation: EA

f. Abstract: The United States Air Force (USAF) has prepared this EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed SFOF. The EA considers the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives, including the Proposed Action, for the proposed SFOF. The proposed SFOF is required to support the 460 Space Wing mission by providing a centralized facility that meets the requirements for an active-duty AFB.

The environmental resources potentially affected by the proposed action and alternatives include: land use; socioeconomic; air quality; noise; soils; water resources; biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, and threatened, endangered or other sensitive species; hazardous materials and waste; solid waste and pollution prevention; transportation; utilities; and environmental justice. Based on the nature of the activities that would occur during the construction and operation of the SFOF, the USAF has determined that minimal or no adverse impacts to the above resources are anticipated.

g. Comments must be received by:

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ACRONYMS

460 SW	460 Space Wing
ac	acre
ACAM	Air Conformity Analysis Model
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
ANG	Air National Guard
APCD	Air Pollution Control Division
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AST	aboveground storage tank
BMPs	best management practices
CAQCC	Colorado Air Quality Control Commission
CATM	Combined Arms Training and Maintenance
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
CO	carbon monoxide
cu ft	cubic feet
cu m	cubic meters
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DNL	day-night level
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact

ACRONYMS

ft	foot or feet
FY	Fiscal Year
ha	hectare
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutants
HAZMART	Hazardous Materials Pharmacy
HQ	Headquarters
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
km	kilometers
m	meter
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mi	miles
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NLR	Noise Level Reduction
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
ODS	ozone-depleting substances
OSI	Office of Special Investigation
P2	Pollution Prevention
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
pCi/L	picocuries per liter
PM _{10/2.5}	particulate matter particles equal to or less than 10/2.5 microns
ppm	parts per million
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
QRP	Qualified Recycling Program
ROI	region of influence
RTD	Regional Transportation District
sq ft	square foot/feet
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SFOF	Security Forces Operations Facility
sq m	square meter
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide

ACRONYMS

SO _x	Sulfur oxides
SPCC	Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Control
SW	Space Wing
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
tpy	tons per year
U.S.	United States
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USC	U.S. Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	underground storage tank
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound
WWII	World War II

This chapter describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), provides summaries of the scope of the environmental review and the applicable regulatory requirements, and presents an overview of the organization of the document.

Federal agencies are required to consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions in the decision-making process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] §4321 to §4370d) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500-1508). This Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Security Forces Operations Facility (SFOF) at Buckley AFB was prepared in accordance with NEPA and CEQ regulations. Additionally, this EA complies with the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) for the Proposed Action as promulgated in 32 CFR Part 989 (EIAP, 6 July 1999, as amended by 66 FR 16866, 28 March 2001), which implements NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9 (Environmental Planning and Analysis).

1.1 BACKGROUND

Buckley AFB occupies approximately 3,283 acres (ac) (1,328 hectares [ha]) adjacent to the city of Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado, within the Denver metropolitan area (Figure 1-1). The 460 Space Wing (460 SW) is the current host of the installation and their mission is to provide combatant commanders with superior global surveillance, worldwide missile warnings, homeland defense, and expeditionary forces. The installation houses diverse missions, military services, and components that include active-duty, National Guard, and reserve personnel from the United States Air Force (USAF), Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to accomplish satellite support operations, fighter operations, installation support, and other important missions. Currently, there are approximately 4,200 active-duty personnel, approximately 2,300 Guard and Reserve personnel, approximately 4,800 civilian employees, and approximately 2,600 contract employees at the base. In addition, Buckley AFB serves approximately 22,000 retirees and approximately 55,000 dependents and veterans (460 SW 2004).

Buckley AFB is transforming from a minimally developed and landscaped installation for weekend influxes of Reserve and Guard personnel into a fully developed active-duty AFB. The base must meet the needs of diverse military missions by providing facilities that satisfy different requirements while maintaining the look and feel of a singular, well planned military installation integrated into its natural environment (Buckley AFB 2005a).

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The USAF has prepared this EA to assess the environmental and social impacts resulting from the Proposed Action to construct and operate a SFOF planned for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 at Buckley AFB (Figure 1-2). This project is included in the \$175-million, multi-year capital improvements program (CIP) at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB.

The purpose of this project is to provide a centralized SFOF that is located away from the Priority A Resource, that supports the expanding mission of the base, and that meets the requirements of Section I, 15.18.3, “Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.” Per this Air Force Handbook, the proposed facility would provide training, central security control, law enforcement, resource protection,

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Figure 1-1 Regional Context Map for Buckley AFB

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Figure 1-2 General Location of the Proposed and Alternative Security Forces Operations Facility Sites

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personnel protection, and personnel security for the base mission. The central security control and battle staff room would be sized adequately to support the expanding mission of Buckley AFB and the Priority A Resource. Also per Air Force Handbook 32-1084, this project would provide Buckley AFB with adequate facilities for mobility processing, including equipping and training personnel along with receiving, storing, and issuing material to meet deployment mission requirements for the 460 SW Security Forces.

The conversion of the base in 2000 from an Air National Guard (ANG) installation to an active-duty AFB has added 500 military staff members at the installation. The existing Security Forces operations are housed in a facility immediately adjacent to the Priority A Resource and its Main Entry Control Point, and the Colorado ANG Wing Headquarters (HQ). The existing SFOF was constructed as a small unit solely for the protection of the Priority A Resource area. The Supply and Mobility Area is located inside the perimeter of the Priority A Resource and creates considerable operational challenges whenever personnel are mobilized due to strict access requirements and its geographic location on the base. The existing facility does not include a properly configured law enforcement desk or any detention cells, both of which are required by Section I, 15.18.3 “Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.” The lack of detention cells also burdens Security Forces with excessive transportation of confined personnel to and from off-base facilities.

The current SFOF facility was constructed to meet the needs of the base mission prior to 2000; however, the base mission has changed rendering the existing facility inadequate to meet the needs and requirements of an active-duty AFB. The December 2000 Facility Utilization Study found the facility undersized by 17,610 square feet (sq ft) (1,636 square meters [sq m]). As a result, this project is needed to correct these deficiencies and meet the requirements of Part II Military Handbook 1190, “Facility Planning and Design,” and Section I, 15.18.3 “Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.”

1.3 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Draft EA will be made available for public and agency review and comment. After reviewing the analysis in the EA, a decision will be made as to whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or to proceed with the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to further analyze the potentially significant impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives.

1.3.1 Resources to be Analyzed in this EA

This EA addresses the potential impacts of the Proposed Action to land use; socioeconomic; air quality; noise; soils; water resources, including surface water and groundwater; biological resources, including vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species; hazardous materials and wastes; solid waste and pollution prevention; transportation; utilities; and environmental justice.

1.3.2 Resources Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

The following environmental issues were initially considered, but were determined not to be relevant to the Proposed Action being considered. By utilizing standard measures, such as avoidance and best management practices (BMPs), these issues would not be impacted by the Proposed Action. Consequently, they have been eliminated from detailed analysis.

- Floodplains – Executive Order (EO) 11988, “Floodplain Management,” requires all federal agencies to avoid construction within the 100-year floodplain unless no other practicable alternative exists. The proposed project area and alternative sites have been located outside of the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, floodplain management was dismissed as an environmental issue.
- Geology – The USAF is required to protect significant geologic features. The proposed project areas and alternative sites would have little to no effect on the geology of the area. Therefore, geology was dismissed as an environmental issue.
- Cultural Resources – The National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 USC 470 et seq.) and NEPA require the consideration of impacts on cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Buckley AFB does not anticipate that any historic structures or buildings, or archaeological sites, would be impacted by the proposed project (GeoMarine Inc. 2004). There are no known historical and or archaeological resources in the proposed and alternative sites; therefore, impacts to cultural resources are not expected. Should any cultural resources be uncovered during construction of any of the proposed facilities, work would stop and the site would be evaluated prior to the continuation of the project. Therefore, cultural resources was dismissed as an environmental issue.
- Visual Resources – Because the base is zoned as industrial by the city of Aurora and the proposed project takes place within this industrial area, there would be no new impacts to visual or scenic resources. Structures on base are visible to communities located near the southern boundary. Construction of a new facility within base boundaries would be consistent with the current viewshed for these communities. However, some adverse and short-term impacts could result from the presence of construction equipment, but these would be minimal. Therefore, visual resources were dismissed as an environmental issue.
- Air Space – Because the proposed projects would not involve any flying and/or flying missions, there would be no new impacts to air space. Therefore, air space was dismissed as an environmental issue.

1.4 APPLICABLE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The EA is documentation of the EIAP and complies with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and DoD Instruction 4715.9. The EA addresses all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act (CWA) Endangered Species Act; AF132-7040, Air Quality Compliance; EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands; Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7088, Pollution Prevention Program; AFI 32-7042, Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance; EO 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Population and Low-Income Populations; EO 13045 Protection of Children from

Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

In accordance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, a project with a total area of disturbance equal to or greater than one acre requires a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), including sediment and erosion control measures, be developed and implemented for construction activities. A Notice of Intent would be filed to obtain coverage under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Stormwater Construction General Permit.

In addition, other permits, activities, and notifications that would be needed prior to or after construction include:

- Fugitive dust permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) should site grading activities exceed 6 months.
- Review and update inventory of stationary emission units as required by the Title V Operating Permit, Condition 9.1.
- Registration of air-conditioning equipment containing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) may be required if equipment has a total horsepower rating of 100 or greater. However, AFI 32-7086 requires that the USAF not develop or procure any new weapon or facility systems that are scheduled to remain in the USAF inventory beyond 01 January 2020 that require Class II ODS in their operations or maintenance.

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Pursuant to the EIAP implementing the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502), the EA will consist of the following sections:

Acronyms and Abbreviations: provides a list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the document.

Section 1 – Introduction: Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action: provides background information about the installation; the purpose and need for the Proposed Action; the scope of the environmental review; applicable regulatory requirements; and a brief description of how the document is organized.

Section 2 – Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives: provides the selection criteria; a detailed description of the Proposed Action, other action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative for the proposed project; other alternatives that were considered but not carried forward in the evaluation process; and an alternatives comparison table.

Section 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences: provides a description of the existing conditions of the areas potentially affected by the alternatives identified to implement the Proposed Action; and an analysis of the direct and indirect impacts to resources from the alternatives.

Section 4 –Cumulative Impacts: provides an analysis of present and reasonably foreseeable projects, and the potential incremental impacts of the Proposed Action when considered along with these other planned or reasonably foreseeable projects.

Section 5 – List of Preparers: provides a list of the document preparers and contributors.

Section 6 – Distribution List and Agencies and Individuals Contacted: provides lists of agencies/individuals to whom the EA will be distributed and the agencies/individuals who were contacted for information in the preparation of this document.

Section 7 – References: provides a listing of the references used in preparing this EA.

Appendices: includes Air Force 813 Forms, Notice of Availability and Affidavit of Publication, Interagency Coordination Letters, and Comments and Responses to Comments.

This chapter identifies selection criteria and provides a detailed description of the Proposed Action, two other action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative for construction of the SFOF. Alternatives that were considered but dismissed are also discussed. In addition, a comparison of how the alternatives meet the selection criteria for the project and a summary of impacts for each alternative are provided at the end of this chapter.

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF SELECTION CRITERIA

The Buckley AFB General Plan was published in November 2002 (Buckley AFB 2005a) and updated in October 2005. The plan provides an overall blueprint for the transition from an ANG base to a fully functioning, active-duty AFB with many tenant organizations. The General Plan advocates grouping similar facilities together, and antiterrorism constraints dictated siting some facilities a specified distance from the fence line.

The following are selection criteria developed to satisfy the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. Alternatives were developed based on how effectively they meet the selection criteria for each project.

Selection criteria for the project were determined using the Military Handbook 1190, “Facility Planning and Design Guide” and Section I, 15.18.3 “Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.” Selection criteria for this project included the following:

1. Meets current Air Force operational, safety, and training standards per the referenced handbooks and guides.
2. Easy access to main arterial roadways.
3. Compatible adjacent land uses.
4. Adequate response time to critical base areas.
5. Design constraints posed by height restrictions.
6. Location outside the Airfield Clear Zone.
7. Compatible with the land use established in the General Plan.
8. Avoids floodplains, wetlands, natural and cultural resources, and sites requiring environmental investigation and/or remediation.

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The USAF proposes to construct and operate an SFOF to provide adequate facilities as described below. The new SFOF would provide support to the 460 SW through Central Security Control, Law Enforcement, Resource Protection, Personnel Security, Information Security, Supply and Mobility, and Training, as per Section I, 15.18.3 “Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.” In addition, the facility would allow the base to provide mobility processing, including equipping and training personnel along with receiving, storing, and issuing material to meet deployment mission requirements for the 460 SW Security Forces (URS 2005a). Per Section I, 15.18.3 “Category Code 730-835,

Security Police Operations" of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 "Facilities Requirements," the new facility would include space for:

- Command operations
- Administrative functions
- Training
- Consolidated Security Forces with a law enforcement desk
- Two holding cells
- Battle staff room
- Investigation section
- Arms vault
- Guard Mount room for Security Forces

As shown in Figure 2-1, the proposed site is located in an open field, along the east side of Aspen Street, opposite Beaver Creek Street, and northwest of Building 806 Fire Station. The proposed structure is a 35,683 sq ft (3,315 sq m) two-story building. The temporary construction impacts (estimated to be six times the building square footage) would be 214,098 sq ft (19,890 sq m) or 4.9 ac (2.0 ha). With the inclusion of parking lots and sidewalks, it is estimated that the permanent footprint of the two-story facility would be approximately 68,795 sq ft (6,391 sq m) or 1.6 ac (0.64 ha).

The exterior walls would be constructed of split-faced concrete masonry units and tinted, insulated glass. The roof would be a sloped, standing seam metal over rigid insulation. Figure 2-2 shows a conceptual site plan of what the SFOF might look like.

The loading and delivery area would incorporate a covered loading dock with a ramp, with the capacity for two trucks, for loading and unloading equipment and materials; and an area where light maintenance may be performed on security vehicles when required. This area would include space to park and charge a forklift. A gate would be installed that would restrict delivery vehicle access to the facility.

The main building entrance would face southwest. The facility would staff 40 to 45 personnel that currently work on base. No additional employees on base are expected as a result of this project. The Guard Mount room would accommodate approximately 50 personnel. During call-up exercises, more than 200 people may be present in the building. (URS 2005a)

Parking would include a lot for approximately 137 privately owned vehicles on the north-northwest side of the facility; and a secured parking area for a fleet of approximately 20 security vehicles on the southeast side of the building. This parking lot would be located a minimum of 82 feet (25 meters) from the SFOF. (URS 2005a)

The site is improved with underground communications cables, natural gas, water, and electric service running through or adjacent to the site. Storm sewer open drainage runs in front and through the site along Aspen Street.

Figure 2-1 General Location of the Proposed Security Forces Operations Facility

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SECTION TWO

Description Of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Figure 2-2 Security Forces Operations Facility Conceptual Site Plan

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2.3 DESCRIPTION OF OTHER ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Two alternative construction sites were selected for evaluation in this EA (Figure 1-2). While the conceptual drawings and activities for the facility would remain the same, the alternatives are located at different sites across the base that best meet the facilities siting criteria detailed in the Buckley AFB General Plan (Buckley AFB 2005a) and the selection criteria in Section 2.1 of this EA.

2.3.1 Alternative 1

Alternative 1 (Figure 1-2) is a vacant parcel of land located east of Aspen Street, south of Toll Gate Creek, and northeast of Building 1550, the Office of Special Investigation (OSI). There are utilities surrounding Building 1550 but tie-ins to water, sanitary sewer lines, electric, and natural gas would be required.

2.3.2 Alternative 2

Alternative 2 (Figure 1-2) is located south of Breckenridge Avenue and west of Building 606. There are utilities close by but tie-ins to water, electric, natural gas, and sanitary sewer lines would be required. The existing storm water system is an open ditch with culverts along Breckenridge Street and A-Basin Avenue.

2.4 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

While the No Action Alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need for the project, it is included in the environmental analysis to provide a baseline for comparison with the Proposed Action and is analyzed in accordance with CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA.

Under the No Action Alternative, the SFOF would not be built. The SFOF is currently housed in the Main Entry Control Point facility for the Priority A Resource. This is not consistent with the requirements for such a facility, as outlined in Section I, 15.18.5 “Category Code 730-837, Security Entry Control Building” of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 “Facilities Requirements.” Vehicles would need to be dispersed and personnel would remain co-located at other facilities to alleviate vulnerabilities and overcrowded conditions. The continued use of the Colorado ANG facilities and their HQ facility would diminish the efficiency of Colorado ANG functions and contribute to Security Forces Squadron inefficiencies (URS 2005a). The lack of detention cells burdens Security Forces with excessive transportation of confined personnel to and from off-base facilities. The No Action Alternative would not support the expanding missions at Buckley AFB and does not meet the project purpose and need.

2.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

Other locations for the SFOF were investigated during the development of the General Plan. The locations eliminated from consideration were either already planned for other development, were in areas not suitable for development (wetlands, floodplains, Installation Restoration Program [IRP] sites), or were not large enough to accommodate all Security Forces operations in one location. Location off-base would not meet the purpose and need for the proposed facility.

2.6 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Table 2-1 illustrates the Proposed Action, Alternatives 1 and 2, and the No Action Alternative as they relate to the selection criteria presented in Section 2.1.

Table 2-1
Comparison of Alternatives with Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	No Action Alternative
Meets current Air Force operational, safety, and training standards	YES	YES	YES	NO
Easy access to main arterial roadways	YES	NO	YES	NO
Compatible adjacent site uses	YES	YES	NO	n/a
Adequate response time to critical base areas	YES	NO	YES	n/a
Design constraints posed by height restrictions	NO	NO	YES	n/a
Is not located in the Airfield Clear Zone	YES	YES	YES	n/a
Compatible with land use established in the Buckley AFB General Plan	YES	NO	NO	n/a
Avoids floodplains, wetlands, natural or cultural resources, and sites requiring environmental investigation and/or remediation	YES	YES	YES	YES

n/a: not applicable

Table 2-2 compares the impacts to resources analyzed in this EA for the Proposed Action, Alternatives 1 and 2, and the No Action Alternative for the project.

Table 2-2
Comparison of Alternatives with Resource Impacts

Resources	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	No Action Alternative
Land Use	Although the land uses are compatible, negligible adverse impacts from locating SFOF in an area to be designated Aircraft Operations and Maintenance.	Adverse impacts to land use are expected because proposed land use changes are not compatible with the General Plan.	Adverse impacts to land use are expected because proposed land use changes are not compatible with the General Plan.	No adverse impacts expected.
Socioeconomics	No adverse impacts expected. Beneficial, short-term, direct socioeconomic impacts.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.
Air Quality	Minor, direct, short- and long-term impacts from fugitive dust and pollutants from vehicle and heavy equipment exhaust, and emissions from building operations.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.

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Description Of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resources	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	No Action Alternative
Noise	Negligible short-term impacts due to construction activities.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.
Soils	Minor, direct, and short-term impacts due to construction activities such as grading, excavating, and recontouring of the soil.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.
Water Resources: surface water and groundwater	Negligible, long-term, adverse impacts to surface water due to an increase in impervious surfaces.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.
Biological Resources				
Vegetation	Minor, direct, long-term adverse impacts from construction, including the permanent loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of vegetation.	Same as Proposed Action.	Same as Proposed Action.	No adverse impacts expected.
Wetlands	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.
Wildlife	Minor, short- and long-term, direct impacts due to construction activities. Indirect and long-term impacts from operation.	Minor to moderate, short- and long-term, direct and indirect impacts due to construction activities. Indirect and long-term impacts from operation.	Moderate, short- and long-term, direct impacts due to construction activities. Indirect and long-term impacts from operation.	No adverse impacts expected.
Threatened, Endangered, and Other Sensitive Species	Moderate, direct long-term impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs. Moderate, direct and indirect, short- and long-term impacts to burrowing owls. This includes the loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of potential habitat.	Minor to moderate short- and long-term, direct and indirect impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs. Moderate, direct and indirect, short- and long-term impacts to burrowing owls. This includes the loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of potential habitat.	Moderate, direct long-term impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs. Moderate, direct and indirect, short- and long-term impacts to burrowing owls. This includes the loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of potential habitat.	No adverse impacts expected.

SECTION TWO

Description Of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resources	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	No Action Alternative
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Potential long-term adverse impacts from radon in the soil. Potential adverse impacts expected should former skeet range fill material be encountered during construction.	Potential long-term adverse impacts from radon in the soil ; otherwise, no hazardous materials or waste impacts are expected.	Potential long-term adverse impacts from radon in the soil ; otherwise, no hazardous materials or waste impacts are expected.	No adverse impacts expected.
Solid Waste	Negligible short-term impacts due to solid waste generation during construction activities.	Negligible short-term impacts due to solid waste generation during construction activities.	Negligible short-term impacts due to solid waste generation during construction activities.	No adverse impacts expected.
Pollution Prevention	No significant changes to P2 expected once construction is complete.	No significant changes to P2 expected once construction is complete.	No significant changes to P2 expected once construction is complete.	No adverse impacts expected.
Transportation	Minimal to moderate, long-term, adverse impacts due to changing traffic patterns, capacity, and volume.	Minimal to moderate, long-term, adverse impacts due to changing traffic patterns, capacity, and volume.	Minimal to moderate, long-term, adverse impacts due to changing traffic patterns, capacity, and volume.	No adverse impacts expected.
Utilities	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.	No adverse impacts expected.
Environmental Justice	No disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations of all ages expected.	No disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations of all ages expected.	No disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations of all ages expected.	No adverse impacts expected.

3.1 METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING IMPACTS

This section describes the affected environment (existing conditions) for land use; socioeconomics; air quality; noise; soils; water resources; biological resources including vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species; hazardous materials and waste; solid waste pollution prevention; transportation; utilities; and environmental justice. It also describes the potential impacts resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Potential impacts were identified and assessed for each environmental issue by comparing against existing conditions, which is the No Action Alternative. The area of impact was assumed to be the total area of the footprint for the facility, which includes total square footage of the facility, parking lots, and sidewalks. Temporary construction impacts were assumed to be six times the facility footprint, and permanent impacts were assumed to be two times as large as the facility footprint.

Impact areas utilized throughout this section were derived from the following calculations. The temporary construction impacts (six times the footprint) would be 214,098 sq ft (19,890 sq m) or 4.9 ac (2.0 ha). The total permanent footprint, which includes total square footage of the facility, parking lots, and sidewalks of the SFOF, would be approximately 68,795 sq ft (6,391 sq m) or 1.6 ac (0.64 ha).

Impacts were assessed by comparison of the footprint of the facilities for each proposed project and their alternatives to the resources described under the Affected Environment section for each resource. Impacts are described by intensity (minor/moderate), timing (construction vs. operation), mode of action (direct/indirect), and duration of impact (short-term/long-term), where applicable.

3.2 LAND USE

This section describes existing land use on the base and presents information pertaining to the proposed project and its impact or change, if any, on land use. The region of influence (ROI) considered for land use was limited to the Buckley AFB and the communities adjacent to the base boundaries.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB occupies approximately 3,283 ac (1,328 ha) adjacent to the city of Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado, within the Denver metropolitan area. Developed areas, including residential development and the Airport Boulevard Gateway Area (a growing business hub), border the base to the west and northwest. Land uses bordering the base to the east include light industrial land uses. Residential areas border the base on the southwest side. The East Toll Gate Creek 100-year floodplain borders the base to the southwest and provides a buffer between the developed areas and the installation boundary. A Regional Park and Open Space designation are proposed for areas immediately south of the installation (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Areas within Buckley AFB are primarily industrial and include several land use types. Generally, land use on the base currently includes National Guard and reserve facilities to the

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east of Aspen Street, and active duty facilities to the west (Buckley AFB 2005a). Land uses within Buckley AFB are primarily divided into fourteen categories (Administrative, Aircraft Operations and Maintenance, Airfield, Airfield Pavements, Community Commercial, Community Service, Housing-Accompanied, Housing-Unaccompanied, Industrial, Medical, Mission Operations and Maintenance, Open Space, Outdoor Recreation, and Water). The land use categories were developed to prevent incompatible siting of facilities and/or operations and are shown in Figure 3-1. Future land use categories were developed to assist with future planning development on the base and are shown in Figure 3-2.

The proposed SFOF would consist of a 35,771 sq ft (3,323 sq m) two-story structure. Construction of the new SFOF would allow the base to provide mobility processing, including equipping and training personnel along with receiving, storing, and issuing material to meet deployment mission requirements for the 460 SW Security Forces. With the inclusion of associated parking areas and landscaping, the SFOF is expected to permanently convert approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of land within the base.

Proposed Action

The SFOF would be located in the central portion of the base in an area that is currently an open field with an existing Open Space land use designation and a proposed future land use of Aircraft Operations and Maintenance.

Land uses surrounding the Proposed Action location are designated as Aircraft Operations and Maintenance. The two closest buildings to the site are Building 805 (the Air Guard maintenance facility) to the north, and Building 806, the fire station to the southeast. To the east is the airstrip, to the south is open undeveloped land, to the west is Aspen Street, and to the north is the Air Guard building.

No Action Alternative

Existing land uses would continue until they are altered or replaced by other land uses in response to base expansion.

Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 site is a vacant, undeveloped parcel of land located on the southern portion of the base northeast of Building 1550, the OSI. Land surrounding the OSI is designated as Administrative. The site is currently designated as Open Space with future land use plans being Open Space.

Alternative 2

Under Alternative 2, the SFOF would be located on a vacant parcel of land located between Breckenridge Street and A-Basin Avenue. The site is currently zoned as Open Space and has a proposed future land use designated for Community Service.

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Figure 3-1 Existing Land Use

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Figure 3-2 Future Land Use

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3.2.2 Impacts

The primary issues and concerns related to land use include the ability of Buckley AFB to continue to perform its mission while maintaining the viability of the land uses at and adjacent to the base. Also of concern are the health, safety, and welfare of persons using land adjacent to Buckley AFB.

Impacts to land use from the Proposed Action or action alternatives would include:

- Land use changes on base that would conflict with community land use plans or zoning
- Land uses conflicts on base that are considered incompatible with the Buckley AFB General Plan
- Land use changes on base that would impact communities (i.e., residential, business) that are located off base, adjacent to Buckley AFB

Since activities under the Proposed Action and action alternatives would occur within base boundaries, no off-base impacts to land use are expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action or action alternatives.

Proposed Action

Direct impacts of the Proposed Action would include the permanent conversion of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of land designated for a future land use of Aircraft Operations and Maintenance in the Buckley AFB General Plan to a Mission Operations and Maintenance land use (see Figure 3-2). However, locating a facility for Mission Operations and Maintenance in this area is considered compatible with the Aircraft Operations and Maintenance land use. Therefore, on-base impacts are expected to be negligible as a result of the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative

No direct impacts to land use types as a result of the No Action Alternative are anticipated.

Alternative 1

Direct impacts would include the conversion of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of undeveloped land that has future designation as Open Space to land developed and utilized for Mission Operations and Maintenance. Adverse impacts to land use are expected since the land use designation for Alternative 1 would not be compatible with the Buckley AFB General Plan (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Alternative 2

Direct impacts would include the conversion of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) land designated for Community Service uses to land utilized for Mission Operations and Maintenance (Buckley AFB 2005a). Therefore, adverse impacts to land use are expected since the land use designation for Alternative 2 would not be compatible with the Buckley AFB General Plan.

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3.3 SOCIOECONOMICS

The socioeconomic section discusses and provides a full disclosure of economic conditions within and adjacent to the project area. Census data and other sources were used to derive data about base and surrounding populations, local employment and payroll, and other socioeconomic indicators.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB is located approximately eight miles (mi) [12.8 kilometers (km)] east of Denver, Colorado, within the city of Aurora, in Arapahoe County. Buckley population statistics were previously discussed in Section 1.1. The ROI included Buckley AFB and areas immediately adjacent to the base.

According to the 2003 Economic Impact Analysis performed at Buckley AFB, Buckley generates an annual payroll of \$490,092,390, composed of \$228,175,272 being for military payroll; \$81,214,065 for civilian payroll; and \$180,703,053 for non-appropriated funds, contract civilians, and private businesses. Approximately 5,741 indirect jobs were created at Buckley AFB in 2003 with an estimated annual dollar value of \$241,885,553. The total estimated annual economic impact from Buckley is \$1.2 billion (460 SW 2004).

Between 1990 and 2000, median income in Arapahoe County increased by 40 percent, and personal income showed an increase of 124 percent. Per capita personal income showed an increase from \$9,370 to \$28,147. Non-farm and farm personal income increased 124 percent to approximately \$21.6 billion, and 447 percent to approximately \$1.7 million, respectively, in 2000. The categories with the highest percent increase in earnings between 1990 and 2000 were state government (325 percent); transportation and public utilities (297 percent); finance, insurance, and real estate (264 percent); and agricultural services (211 percent). The mining industry lost earnings (-19.1 percent) between 1990 and 2000 (Buckley AFB 2004a).

Total full-time and part-time employment increased 62 percent to 389,723 jobs in Arapahoe County between 1990 and 2000. The largest percentage employment gains between 1990 and 2000 were in construction (163 percent); transportation and public utilities (130 percent); state government (123 percent); and agricultural services (108 percent). Job loss was reported for mining (-41 percent) and farms (-15 percent). (Buckley AFB 2004a)

3.3.2 Impacts

This section addresses socioeconomic impacts that could be considered direct social effects on the environment, such as changes to population and housing, and that are separate from strictly economic impacts, such as a loss of revenue. This information is provided to allow an assessment of the comparative costs and economic effects of the project and its alternatives.

The number of staff present at the proposed SFOF would be approximately 40-45 people. The number of people present within the facility may fluctuate depending on visitors, inspections, and briefings.

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Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would not result in any additional base employees. The personnel needed to support the facility would come from an existing facility in which they are sharing or have inadequate space. Therefore, the increased number of personnel at Buckley AFB resulting from the Proposed Action is not expected to impact the local workforce, population, or housing.

Construction costs associated with the Proposed Action would have a direct, beneficial impact on the local economy. Construction workers for the Proposed Action would be drawn primarily from the existing local workforce or outside contractors, resulting in beneficial, short-term, direct effects on the local economy. However, it is expected that no new hiring of construction workers would occur due to existing workers within local companies being utilized. Construction employment workforces would be concentrated within the local area, thereby reducing the probability of a change in population growth based on the construction of the facility.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not provide additional work for local construction workers and would therefore not generate additional revenue for the local economy. However, because additional construction workers would probably not have been hired specifically for the project and would be used on construction projects elsewhere, there would be no adverse impacts from the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 1

Impacts at the Alternative 1 location for the SFOF would be the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

Impacts at the Alternative 2 location for the SFOF would be the same as the Proposed Action.

3.4 AIR QUALITY

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB is located in Arapahoe County, Colorado, within the Metropolitan Denver Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). Given the regional nature of air quality, the ROI for this resource is the entire Denver AQCR. The Denver AQCR is currently designated attainment/maintenance for carbon monoxide (CO), the 1-hour ozone standard, sulfur oxides (SO_x), and particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM₁₀) (Colorado Air Quality Control Commission [CAQCC], 2001a, 2001b, 2003; CDPHE, 2004). The Denver metropolitan area exceeded both the 1-hour and the 8-hour ozone standards during the summer of 2003.

The region has entered into an Ozone Early Action Compact with USEPA and has committed to an extensive ozone modeling effort and early implementation of control measures as needed to ensure attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by December 2007 (CAQCC, 2004). The Denver AQCR is designated attainment under the new National Ambient Air Quality Standards

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

(NAAQS) for particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM_{2.5}) (USEPA 2004), so the area would not be affected by this standard.

Buckley AFB is a major source of criteria pollutants under the Title V program because it has the potential to emit more than 100 tons of the criteria pollutants, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). Buckley AFB is a minor source of CO, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and PM₁₀ under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) provisions, with a potential to emit less than 250 tons per year (tpy) of these pollutants. Buckley AFB is a PSD synthetic minor source of NO_x and SO₂ because the base accepted permit limits that establish the potential to emit for these pollutants at less than 250 tons per year (Jensen 2002). Buckley AFB's Title V Operating Permit Number 950PAR118 was originally issued on 28 August 1997, renewed on 1 July 2002, revised on 1 November 2005, and expires on 30 June 2007 (CDPHE 2005).

The Title V permit documents stationary sources of regulated emissions at Buckley AFB, including natural gas-fired boilers; furnaces and heaters; dual fuel-fired boilers (capable of firing natural gas or number 2 oil); diesel-fired generators; gasoline-fired arresting barrier engines; fuel storage tanks; and degreasers. Combustion sources can emit CO, NO_x, lead, SO_x, PM₁₀ and VOCs, while storage tanks and degreasing stations can emit VOCs.

The Title V operating permit requires Buckley AFB to review and update the inventory of all the stationary emission units at the end of each calendar year and calculate the total of criteria pollutant and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) emissions. The 2004 Air Emissions Inventory summary for Buckley AFB is presented in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1
Buckley AFB Mobile and Stationary Air Emissions Inventory

Pollutant Emission Sources	CO (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	SO _x (tpy)	NO _x (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)
Buckley AFB 2003 Mobile Emissions ⁽¹⁾	204.5	56.9	2.1	40.6	5.0
Buckley AFB 2004 Point and Fugitive Stationary Source Emissions ⁽²⁾	22.4	28.2	1.7	63.1	5.5
Total Buckley AFB Emissions	226.9	85.1	3.8	103.7	10.5
AQCR 36 Emission Inventory ⁽³⁾	678,170	167,900	69,350	112,785	32,156
Conformity Rule De Minimus Threshold ⁽⁴⁾	100	100	100	100	100
10 percent of AQCR 36 Emission Inventory (Significant Threshold Values)	67,817	16,790	6,935	11,278	3,215

(1) Source: URS Group, 2004. Mobile emission inventories are not conducted annually.

(2) Source: Golder Associates, 2005. Air Emissions Inventory, Buckley AFB CY 2004.

(3) Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (CAQCC), 2003 (CO – 2006 Interim Year Inventory), 2001a, (VOC and NO_x 2006 Inventory), and 2001b. (PM₁₀ and SO_x 2005 Maintenance Inventory)

(4) 40 CFR 93.153(b) - These limits are applicable to non-attainment and maintenance areas, and therefore, apply to Buckley AFB.

tpy= tons per year

The Title V permit also requires Buckley AFB to comply with Colorado State Regulation No. 15. This regulates Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) contained in refrigeration equipment and air-conditioning units for climate control. These substances would need to be properly managed to prevent releases to the atmosphere.

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Mobile sources are not regulated under the Clean Air Act, Title V operating permit, or the Colorado operating permit program, but are considerable components of total base emissions. Mobile sources at Buckley AFB include on- and off-road vehicles and equipment, some aerospace ground equipment, and aircraft operations. Emissions from mobile sources include CO, NO_x, lead, SO_x, PM₁₀, and VOCs.

3.4.2 Impacts

Impacts to air quality were evaluated with respect to the PSD and general conformity regulations (40 CFR Part 51 and 40 CFR Part 93 Subpart B respectively) and Buckley AFB's Title V Permit. The general conformity regulations apply to any federal action that takes place within an area designated as non-attainment or maintenance for criteria pollutants. The General Conformity Rule does not apply to actions that are not considered regionally significant and where the total direct and indirect emissions of non-attainment criteria pollutants do not equal or exceed *de minimis* threshold levels for criteria pollutants established in 40 CFR 93.153(b). A federal action is considered regionally significant when its total emissions equal or exceed 10 percent of the non-attainment area's emissions inventory for any criteria air pollutant. If a federal action meets *de minimis* requirements and is not considered a regionally significant action, then it does not have to undergo a full conformity determination (Buckley AFB 2004a). However, if emissions exceed the *de minimis* levels or are regionally significant, the USEPA provides several methods to determine if an action conforms to an implementation plan, including: (1) ensuring that emissions from the project are specifically included in the State Emissions Budget; (2) providing emission offsets; and/or (3) conducting air quality modeling. A federal agency can use one or any combination of the methods to show positive conformity (40 CFR 93.158).

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would affect air quality in two ways: (1) the construction activities would produce fugitive dust and pollutants from vehicle and heavy equipment exhaust; and (2) the operation of new buildings and facilities would increase emissions from furnaces, hot water heaters, and tanks used to store fuels for these sources. Operation of the SFOF would not increase the daily traffic flow in the ROI because no additional employees would be added as a result of the Proposed Action, and there would be no impacts from mobile sources once construction is complete. In addition, ODS contained in air-conditioning units for climate control would need to be properly managed to prevent releases to the atmosphere. These emissions would be considered direct impacts, as they would occur at the same time and place as the Proposed Action (e.g., point of emission from vehicle and equipment exhaust; stacks and/or vents for furnaces and hot water heaters; and loss of ODS from air-conditioning systems) (Buckley AFB 2004a). Therefore, direct, short- and long-term impacts are expected on air quality as a result of the Proposed Action. These impacts are discussed in detail in the following sections. However, as described in the Air Conformity Analysis section of this EA, emissions from construction and operation of the SFOF would not have a major impact on air quality.

Construction Activities

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would create short-term fugitive dust emissions from the following activities:

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- Site grading (scraping, bulldozing, and compacting)
- Foundation excavation
- Utilities trenching
- Material handling (soils, aggregate, and construction debris/waste)
- Vehicle travel on paved and unpaved roads
- Building construction
- Walk-way, sidewalk and parking lot preparation, paving, and painting
- Landscape and turf installation
- Miscellaneous emissions (equipment track out, windblown dust, etc.)

Fugitive dust emissions generated from the SFOF construction project would depend on the extent and duration that the activities listed above are performed to complete the project. BMPs that can be instituted onsite to minimize fugitive dust emissions may include the application of water or other chemical stabilizers on exposed earth surfaces, and other preventive techniques. The following techniques have been shown to be effective for controlling the generation and migration of dust during construction and vehicle and equipment travel activities:

- Keeping roads clean and free of dirt spilled or tracked from construction equipment
- Applying water on haul roads and other exposed earth surfaces
- Hauling materials in properly covered or watertight containers
- Restricting vehicle speed to 10 mi per hour (16.1 km per hour)
- Covering excavated areas and material after excavation activity ceases
- Reducing the excavation size and/or number of excavations (URS 2005).

Using the above-mentioned dust suppression techniques (within reason) would not create excess water, which would result in unacceptable wet conditions. In addition, control techniques, such as chemical stabilization, reduction of surface wind speed with windbreaks (snow fence, silt fence), or source enclosures (netting, mulching) can be employed to suppress dust generation and migration without the use of water (Buckley AFB 2004a).

Additional preventive techniques may entail periodic street and access road sweeping, expeditious cleanup of materials spilled on paved or unpaved travel surfaces, graveling of dirt access roads and work areas, the elimination of mud/dirt carryout on paved roads at construction sites, and vehicle washing. These measures would aid in preventing or reducing the deposition of materials that could become airborne through vehicle and equipment traffic or by wind (Buckley AFB 2004a).

Combustion emissions would be generated from operation of heavy equipment during the ground disturbance phase of construction, delivery of materials to the base, and commuting by contractor employees to the base in their personal vehicles. Pollutants from vehicle and heavy equipment exhaust include NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and VOCs.

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For the purposes of this EA, the Air Conformity Analysis Model (ACAM) was used to estimate emissions from the construction phase of the Proposed Action, including fugitive dust and combustion emissions (U.S. Air Force 2003). ACAM calculates construction emissions based on algorithms developed by South Coast and Santa Barbara Air Quality Management Districts from California, and it incorporates the USEPA's Mobile6, a regulatory on-road source model to calculate on-road vehicle emissions (Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence 2004; South Coast Air Quality Management District 1993; Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District 1994). ACAM estimates fugitive dust emissions based on the area of ground disturbance related to the construction project and the duration of the disturbance.

ACAM estimates combustion emissions from the heavy equipment and vehicles based on the areas graded and paved, the square footage of the building, and the duration of grading and construction phases of work. The duration of the grading and construction phases were estimated to be 30 days and 335 days, respectively. Areas of ground disturbance were assumed at maximum anticipated footprint sizes, with allowance for contractor staging and preparation areas.

Table 3-2 shows the estimated pollutant emissions that may result from the construction phase of the Proposed Action. Pollutants from vehicle and heavy equipment exhaust (combustion emissions) are included in the NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and VOCs values. Fugitive dust emissions are included in PM₁₀ values.

Table 3-2
Security Forces Operations Facility Construction Air Emissions

Criteria Pollutants	Denver AQCR Total Emissions ¹ (tpy)	Construction Emissions (tpy)	Percent of AQCR Emissions	Regionally Significant? (Yes/No)	Applicable Threshold ² (tpy)	Exceeds Threshold? (Yes/No)
NO _x	112,785	11.39	0.0101%	No	100	No
SO _x	69,350	1.40	0.0020%	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³
VOCs	167,900	1.35	0.0008%	No	100	No
CO	678,170	8.52	0.0013%	No	100	No
PM ₁₀	32,156	5.41	0.0168%	No	100	No

¹Source: (CAQCC, 2001a, 2001b, 2003)

²Source: 40 CFR 93.153(b)(1)

³There are no regionally significant or applicable thresholds for SO_x because the Metropolitan Denver Air Quality Control Region (AQCR) is in attainment for this pollutant.

tpy = tons per year

Emissions from Completed Building and Facility Operation Activities

The only stationary sources of emissions from completed buildings and facilities that would be installed and operated as part of the Proposed Action are furnaces, boilers, hot water heaters, and air conditioning systems. Combustion sources would emit NO_x, CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and VOCs. Emissions from these sources would be similar to those created from like equipment currently permitted and operating at the base. Currently, Buckley AFB installation facilities consist of approximately 2.64 million sq ft (0.25 million sq m) building space and use approximately 152.04 million cubic feet (cu ft) [4.3 million cubic meters (cu m)] of natural gas per year (Buckley AFB 2004c; Buckley AFB 2005b). The Proposed Action would add an additional 35,683 sq ft (3,315 sq m) of building area. Assuming a direct ratio of building area to natural gas use, the Proposed Action would result in an increase in natural gas use of approximately 2.05

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million cu ft (58,083 cu m) per year. The estimated increase in gas use was input as the boiler throughput in ACAM to approximate emissions from facility heating systems.

ACAM was used to estimate emissions from the operation phase of the Proposed Action (USAF 2003). Annual emissions for the operation of the SFOF are shown below in Table 3-3. As described in the Air Conformity Analysis section of this EA, emissions from operation of the completed SFOFs would not have a major impact on air quality.

Table 3-3
Security Forces Operations Facility Operation Air Emissions

Criteria Pollutants	Denver AQCR Total Emissions ¹ (tpy)	Operation Emissions (tpy)	Percent of AQCR Emissions	Regionally Significant? (Yes/No)	Applicable Threshold ² (tpy)	Exceeds Threshold? (Yes/No)
NOx	112,785	0.10	0.0001%	No	100	No
SOx	69,350	0.00	<0.0001%	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³
VOCs	167,900	0.01	<0.0001%	No	100	No
CO	678,170	0.14	<0.0001%	No	100	No
PM ₁₀	32,156	0.01	<0.0001%	No	100	No

¹Source: (CAQCC, 2001a, 2001b, 2003)

²Source: 40 CFR 93.153(b)(1)

³There is no regionally significant or applicable thresholds for SO_x because the Metropolitan Denver AQCR is in attainment for this pollutant.

tpy = tons per year

Air Conformity Analysis for the Proposed Action

The ACAM was used to estimate the direct and indirect emissions increase from the SFOF project and compare it to the regionally significant and *de minimis* levels. The site-grading phase is estimated to take 1 month, and the construction phase is estimated to take 11 months. Site operation is assumed to begin the following year. For both construction and operation of the SFOF, the estimated values for CO, VOC, NO_x, SO_x, and PM₁₀ emissions were determined to be less than the USEPA *de minimis* values and less than 10 percent of the Denver AQCR emission inventory (see Tables 3-2 and 3-3). Therefore, a conformity determination is not required. Because emissions associated with construction and operation of the SFOF would be negligible, the Proposed Action would conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and would not have a major impact on air quality (Buckley AFB 2004a).

Title V Permit and PSD Analysis for the Proposed Action

Buckley AFB has a Title V permit with facility wide emissions limits for stationary sources. These limits are below the PSD major source thresholds of 250 tpy for SO₂ and NO_x and below 100 tpy for PM, PM₁₀, VOC, and CO. The ACAM was used to estimate the direct and indirect emissions increase from stationary sources that will be installed as part of the SFOF project. Current actual emissions from Buckley AFB were determined based on the 2004 Emission Inventory (Buckley AFB 2005b). The emissions increase when added to the current actual emissions will not result in any emissions that exceed the current facility-wide limits in the Title V permit. PSD will not be triggered because the site will remain a synthetic minor source. The Details of building heating operations are not known at this time. A Title V modification may be required if new heating equipment has a manufacturer heat input rate of 10 million British

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Thermal Unit per hour or greater and is subject to New Source Performance Standards (40 CFR 60 Subpart Dc).

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to ambient air quality conditions of the project area or surrounding areas because construction activities associated with the SFOF would not be undertaken. Air quality conditions would remain as described in Section 3.4.1.

Alternative 1

Alternative 1, which would entail constructing the SFOF at an alternative location on base, would result in the same air quality impacts as the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2, which would entail constructing the SFOF at an alternative location on base, would result in the same air quality impacts as the Proposed Action.

3.5 NOISE

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Human response to noise is subjective and can vary greatly from person to person. Factors that can influence an individual's response to noise include the magnitude of the noise as a function of frequency and time pattern. The amount of background noise present before an intruding noise occurs, and the nature of the work or activity (e.g., sleeping) that the noise affects, can also influence a person's level of annoyance.

The unit used to measure the loudness of noise is the decibel (dB). Most community noise standards utilize A-weighted decibels (dBA) as the measure of noise, as it provides a high degree of correlation with human annoyance and health effects. A-weighting de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner similar to functioning of the human ear.

The Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program was initially established by DoD in response to the Noise Control Act of 1972 to promote an environment free from noise that jeopardizes public health or welfare. The noise zones and the accident potential zones together form the AICUZ for an air installation. AICUZ also serves to protect Air Force airfields from encroachment and incompatible land development.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The DoD uses the NOISEMAP computerized day-night average A-weighted Sound Level (DNL) modeling program to produce contours showing noise levels generated by aircraft operations (Figure 3-3). Existing noise conditions on Buckley AFB are predominantly influenced by the operational activities of aircraft and by the test run-ups of aircraft engines. Figure 3-3 can be referenced throughout the following sections for noise contours on base. Daily activities range from 65 to 80 dBA for a typical busy day at Buckley AFB. The ROI considered for noise includes the noise contour containing the proposed site and immediately adjacent areas (Figure 3-3).

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Figure 3-3 Buckley AFB, NOISEMAP

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3.5.2 Impacts

Noise levels below DNL 65 dBA are not considered constraints to development. However, once the noise level meets or exceeds the 65 dBA level, different functions, such as residential, administrative, commercial, and recreational, have different thresholds at which Noise Level Reduction (NLR) measures are recommended for facility design or at which no construction is permitted. Impacts would be considered adverse if there are long-term increases in the number of people highly annoyed by the noise environment, noise-associated adverse health effects to individuals, or unacceptable increases to the noise environment for sensitive receptors. A sensitive receptor is any person or group of persons in an environment where low noise levels are expected, such as schools, day care centers, hospitals, and nursing homes.

This impact section analyzes the AICUZ and noise that occupants and visitors would encounter from the surrounding site location and area.

Proposed Action

Noise impacts from the Proposed Action would be short-term, and primarily from construction activities. Noise created from construction activities could have on- and off-site effects. Based on previous calculations, the highest calculated cumulative energy equivalent sound levels from construction activities are estimated to be 85 dBA at 50 ft (15.2 m) from the center of the project site (Buckley AFB 2004a). Noise levels at 50 ft (15.2 m) for some equipment used during construction activities are 80 dBA for bulldozers, 83 dBA for cranes, 85 dBA for backhoes, and 91 dBA for trucks. The impacts from construction noise would vary according to the activity occurring on any given day, would be short-term (would discontinue after site grading and construction are complete), and would not greatly increase ambient levels. Although adjacent receptors may experience noise impacts from certain construction sites, none are considered sensitive (e.g., schools or hospitals). Therefore, noise impacts from construction of the SFOF are expected to be minor, short-term and would be consistent with acceptable noise levels on Buckley AFB (Buckley AFB 2004a).

No noise impacts are expected once construction is complete. The Proposed Action location for the SFOF would be located east of Aspen Street in an AICUZ zone of 65 dBA. The facility would not encounter average dBA levels over 65 dBA within the area.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, noise would remain at current levels. No change in noise impacts would occur.

Alternative 1

Because the Alternative 1 location would be located in an AICUZ of less than 65 dBA (Buckley AFB 2005a), the impacts would be the same as the Proposed Action.

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Alternative 2

The Child Development Center and the Youth Center, which are currently under construction to the southwest of the Alternative 2 location, may be considered sensitive receptors and could be adversely impacted. Therefore, noise impacts are expected to be moderate but short-term due to construction activities as a result of Alternative 2.

There would be no changes to noise levels once construction is completed at the Alternative 2 location, and therefore, no permanent impacts. The Alternative 2 location for the SFOF would be situated south of Breckenridge Street and north of A-Basin Avenue, in an AICUZ of 65 dBA or less (Buckley AFB 2005a). Occupants and visitors of the facility would not encounter average dBA levels over 65.

3.6 SOILS

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB is located within the Denver Basin on the Colorado Piedmont section of the Great Plains. This section is between the high plains in the east and the front range of the Rocky Mountains to the west. The major soil-mapping units present on Buckley AFB include the Fondis-Weld, Alluvial Land-Nunn, and Renohill-Buick-Little associations (Buckley AFB 2004b). Other areas on base have been identified as gravel pits, rock outcrop complexes, sandy alluvial land, and terrace escarpments.

The Fondis-Weld association mapping unit, composed of the Fondis and Weld soil series, covers the most surface area at Buckley AFB. This association consists of deep loamy soils that formed mainly in silty material deposited by the wind (loess). The Fondis soils are gently sloping (1 to 5 percent slope), well-drained, fertile upland soils with a high water-holding capacity (0.25 inch per inch of soil) and moderately slow permeability (<0.63 inch per hour), and are susceptible to wind and water erosion. The Weld soil series consists of deep, well-drained, level to gently sloping (0 to 3 percent slope) soils that occur mainly in uplands. The Weld soils have a moderate rate of water intake and a high available water-holding capacity (0.20 to 0.25 inch per inch of soil). The most common soils in the Buckley AFB area are the Fondis silt loam and the Fondis-Colby silt loam (Buckley AFB 2004b).

The Alluvial Land-Nunn association consists of soils that have moderate permeability (0.63 inch per hour) and high water-holding capacity (0.20 inch per inch of soil), and are typically found along floodplains and terraces. On base, these soils are found along Toll Gate Creek and Sand Creek. These soils are deep, nearly level, loamy, and sandy soils. These soils support crops well, but flood protection is needed to prevent erosion and gully formation. The most common soil types in this association are the Nunn-Bresser Ascalon and the Nunn Loam series, both of which have moderate permeability (0.63 to 6.3 inches per hour) and high water-holding capacity (0.20 inch per inch of soil). Both are typically well-drained, gently sloping soils (0 to 3 percent slope) (Buckley AFB 2004b).

The Renohill-Buick-Little association is composed of moderately deep, well-drained, loamy to clayey soils. The most common soil series within this association are the Renohill-Little complex and the Renohill-Buick loam. Renohill soils are characterized as being moderately fertile with moderate internal drainage, steep slopes (3 to 30 percent slope), moderately slow to slow

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permeability (less than 0.63 inch per hour), and moderate water-holding capacity (0.15 inch per inch of soil) (Buckley AFB 2004b).

3.6.2 Impacts

Conditions that have been identified that may require standard BMPs during construction include potential for erosion and expansive soils. Expansive soils are present at Buckley AFB. The altered volcanic ash layers that are common in most bedrock units underlying the area are composed primarily of swelling clay minerals. Soils that develop from and upon them tend to have elevated swell potential as well. Expansive soils and bedrock can repeatedly swell when wet and contract when dry, damaging man-made structures. However, engineering measures, such as installation of deep foundation systems, can decrease potential impacts from expansive soils.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action location is situated within the Fondis-Weld soil association. Short-term direct effects on soils would be expected under the Proposed Action from construction activities such as grading, excavating, and recontouring of the soil. Approximately 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) would be temporarily impacted from construction activities. Coverage under the *NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities*, site-specific Sediment and Erosion Control Plans, and SWPPPs are required and would be prepared to minimize potential erosion and sedimentation during the construction phase. Soil removed during the project would be used as fill material or stock piled for use at other locations on Buckley AFB. Implementation of BMPs during construction activities would limit adverse indirect effects during construction. Fugitive dust generated during construction activities would be minimized by watering and soil stockpiling, thereby reducing the total amount of soil exposed to negligible levels.

Under the Proposed Action, approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of soil classified as Fondis-Weld association would be permanently disturbed as a result of excavation for the below-ground floor or establishment of impervious surfaces. No residual construction effects on sensitive soil types are expected. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have minor adverse effects on soils at Buckley AFB.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to soils would occur because no grading or other earth-disturbing activities would occur.

Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 location is situated within the Ranohill-Buick-Little soil association. Approximately 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) would be temporarily impacted from construction activities. Permanent impacts to soil at the SFOF Alternative 1 location would be approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of soil classified as Ranohill-Buick-Little, which would be disturbed as a result of excavation for the below-ground foundation or establishment of impervious surfaces. There would be no residual construction effects on sensitive soil types. No adverse impacts on soil resources are expected under the Alternative 1.

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Alternative 2

The Alternative 2 location is situated within the Fondis-Weld soil association. Impacts to soil at the SFOF Alternative 2 location would be similar to those described in the Proposed Action.

3.7 WATER RESOURCES

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Surface Water

The South Platte River, located approximately 15 mi (27.8 km) northwest of Buckley AFB, is the primary surface water drainage in the region. Several smaller intermittent tributaries located within or adjacent to Buckley AFB feed this drainage system. Off-base tributaries include Sand Creek to the north and Murphy Creek to the east (Figure 3-4). East Toll Gate Creek, an intermittent stream in the western section, and an old tributary of Murphy Creek are the only named tributaries that are present on the base. The most prominent surface water feature is Williams Lake, a reservoir located in the northeastern section of the installation (Buckley AFB 2004b).

In general, drainage flows in a northwest direction. Buckley AFB has extensive natural and man-made surface drainage as well as underground stormwater drainage lines. All drainage from the northern section of Buckley AFB discharges into Murphy Creek and Sand Creek to the north and east of the base; drainage from the southern and western section of the base discharges into East Toll Gate Creek (Buckley AFB 2004b).

Groundwater

Buckley AFB is located within a groundwater basin known as the Denver Basin. There are four major bedrock aquifers that underlie Buckley AFB within the Denver Basin: the Denver, Upper Arapahoe, Lower Arapahoe, and Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers. These aquifers are separated by a bed of shale with low permeability and are located in zones of sandstones and siltstones (USGS 1995).

Surficial aquifers at Buckley AFB are associated with present and ancestral surficial stream and river valleys. The aquifer systems are the result of alluvial deposition from erosion of upland bedrock areas. The alluvial aquifer identified on Buckley AFB is associated with East Toll Gate and Sand creeks and consists primarily of coarse-grained materials. Groundwater is recharged to this aquifer through direct infiltration of precipitation and irrigation water and by lateral and upward seepage of groundwater. Groundwater is discharged from the alluvial aquifer through seepage to streams, evapotranspiration, downward seepage into underlying bedrock aquifers, and extraction via pumping wells. Groundwater flow in these surficial aquifers is generally toward the north-northwest along creekbeds, towards the South Platte River (Buckley AFB 2004b).

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Figure 3-4 Wetlands on Buckley AFB

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Stormwater

Stormwater throughout Buckley AFB is regulated under the USEPA NPDES Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities (COR05A13F, 12/1/2003). Buckley also obtained coverage under the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Federal Facility Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in Colorado on April 9, 2004 (COR04208F). In accordance with NPDES requirements, a project with a total area of disturbance equal to or greater than one acre requires a site-specific SWPPP, including sediment and erosion control measures. Stormwater is collected and transmitted through a system of surface ditches and channels. An underground storm drainage system has been installed around the runway, portions of the taxiways, and the hangars and facilities north of the Main Ramp. These structures direct stormwater to the adjoining areas of the city of Aurora, East Toll Gate Creek, or the stormwater detention pond located east of Aspen and south of Steamboat Avenues (Buckley AFB 2005a).

There are two primary drainage basins: Sand Creek Basin and the East Toll Gate Creek Basin. To offset impacts from channel erosion in the East Toll Gate Creek, structures have been installed to detain surface flows and release them at a controlled rate (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action location has a gentle down slope to the west and southwest and a gentle upslope to the east toward the Fire Station. Stormwater in the vicinity of the site location is accumulated in a detention area located near the southwest corner of the site, at the foot of Beaver Creek Street, where a culvert under Aspen Avenue allows stormwater to pass under the street to the lower ground to the west.

No Action Alternative

Water resources would remain as they currently are under the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 location does not contain any drainage improvements. The area gently slopes to the north and west.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 slopes minimally to the west. An earthen drainage ditch is located along the western boundary of the site that channels water south toward A-Basin Avenue.

3.7.2 Impacts

Depth to groundwater is greater than 20 ft (6.1 m) below ground surface at Buckley AFB. Therefore, it is not expected that groundwater would be impacted during construction activities under the Proposed Action, No Action Alternative, or Alternatives 1 and 2, and will not be discussed further.

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Potential impacts would include disruption of natural water flows, contamination entering stormwater discharge, or heavy sediment loading from construction activities. Preparing and implementing a site-specific SWPPP, as required by the NPDES program for construction projects with a total area of disturbance equal to or greater than one acre requires, can minimize adverse impacts. The goal of this plan is to provide construction and post-construction BMPs to control and manage the loading of sediment and other pollutants to levels sufficient to protect downstream water quality.

Construction BMPs can also be implemented for the Proposed Action, or Alternatives 1 and 2 to decrease sedimentation from erosion. Common BMPs for construction activities would be implemented to minimize erosion. Construction BMPs may include the following:

- Limit stockpiling of materials on site
- Manage stockpiled materials to minimize the time between delivery and use
- Cover stockpiled materials with tarps
- Install sediment/straw logs or silt fences around material stockpiles and along the downgradient edge of areas disturbed by construction activities
- At culverts, drains, and ditches: install sediment/straw logs across/around inlets; erosion control blankets and check dams at outlets; and check dams periodically across lengthy ditch profiles.

Post-construction BMPs that can be implemented to reduce runoff peak flows from the increased impervious surfaces include minimizing contiguous areas of impervious surfaces by using landscaping, grass buffer strips, or grass-lined swales and directing runoff from a site to these features

Spill prevention, control, and countermeasure procedures identified in the Buckley AFB Integrated Environmental Response Plan would also be implemented to further reduce the potential for impacts to water resources.

In addition to a SWPPP, the proposed site and alternatives are bounded by existing roadways. The roadways provide stormwater drainage through natural overland surface runoff. Man-made engineered drains, culverts, and above and underground piping systems would also assist in reducing potential impacts.

The increase in stormwater volume would result from the increase in impervious surfaces on the base as a consequence of new building, parking lot, and walking path construction. Areas of impervious surface would be increased with completion of construction of the facilities and associated structures. To calculate the area of impervious surface for the SFOF, parking lot areas were estimated at 300 sq ft (27.9 sq m) per parking space, which includes turning areas and aisles between rows. Total estimates may include some areas that may be landscaped, but are included until final design for landscaping has been completed.

Proposed Action

There are a total of approximately 3,200 ac (1,295 ha) of drainage area at Buckley AFB, of which 525 ac (212.5 ha), or 16.4 percent, are impervious surface. The Proposed Action would increase the impervious surfaces at Buckley AFB by approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha). This would

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increase the total impervious surface at the base to a total of 526.6 ac (213 ha), an increase of 0.9 percent. Assuming an annual precipitation rate of 16.3 inches per year and no losses due to evaporation, the anticipated increase in stormwater runoff due to the Proposed Action would be approximately 0.88 million gallons per year. The exact direction of increased runoff is not currently known (per 40 CFR 1502.22) and would need to be assessed in further detail through site-specific drainage engineering plans that would be developed for construction projects. The increase of impervious surfaces is shown in Table 3-4.

Buckley AFB has extensive natural and man-made surface drainage, as well as underground storm drainage lines, that would convey increased stormwater volumes created from increased impervious surfaces. Stormwater drainage systems associated with the building construction would be constructed in order to handle the increased runoff; the BMPs discussed previously would also be implemented, as appropriate. The increased amount of impervious surface is expected to have negligible, long-term, adverse impacts to surface water at Buckley AFB.

Table 3-4
Increased Impervious Surface Calculations for Security Forces Operations Facility

Building Area Impervious Surfaces (sq ft)	Parking Lot Impervious Surfaces (sq ft) ¹	Sidewalk/walkway Impervious Surfaces (sq ft) ²	Total Impervious Surfaces (sq ft)
17,885	47,700	3,210	68,795

¹ Parking lot area is based on 300 sq ft per parking space, including turning areas.

² Sidewalks length is assumed to be the full perimeter length and width of the building. Total area for walkways and sidewalks is calculated assuming a 6-foot wide walkway and sidewalk.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on water resources.

Alternative 1

Impacts to surface water under Alternative 1 for the SFOF are expected to be the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

Impacts to surface water under Alternative 2 for the SFOF are expected to be the same as the Proposed Action.

3.8 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes native and non-native vegetation, and wildlife, as well as threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species known or likely to occur at Buckley AFB. This analysis is based on site visits conducted in August 2005, as well as literature and previous surveys conducted at Buckley AFB. The measures proposed to offset impacts are based on standard methods and actions recommended by wildlife management agencies and organizations.

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3.8.1 Vegetation and Wetlands

This section describes the affected environment and impacts to vegetation and wetlands for the Proposed Action and each alternative.

3.8.1.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB is located in the Great Plains-Palouse Dry Steppe Province Ecoregion (Bailey 1995), an ecoregion also classified as shortgrass prairie (Buckley AFB 2004b). The *Draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* (Buckley AFB 2004b) identifies four vegetation types occurring at Buckley AFB, including:

- Midgrass prairie comprised of blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*).
- Riparian corridors consisting of bottomland meadows or cottonwood/willow (*Populus deltoids*/*Salix* sp.) habitat
- Weedy/disturbed areas
- Landscaped areas, including turfgrass

Midgrass prairie is dominated by native grass species such as blue grama, western wheatgrass, and buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*). Other common grasses include tumble grass (*Schedonnardus paniculatus*) and three-awn (*Aristida fendleriana* and *A. longiseta*). Fringed brome grass (*Bromus ciliatus*) dominates depressions and gullies within the mixed grass prairie. Areas dominated by crested wheatgrass, a non-native grass species historically used to revegetate disturbed ground, occur throughout the base. Herbaceous species associated with mixed grass prairie are scarlet globe mallow (*Spaeralcea coccinea*), prickly pear (*Opuntia macrohiza*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*).

Riparian habitats are characterized as bottomland meadows or cottonwood/willow. Bottomland meadows occur within the mixed grass prairie and may support wetlands. Fringed brome grass dominates the bottomland meadows and is generally associated with moist soil conditions (Buckley AFB 2004b). Plains cottonwood/willow communities dominate riparian corridors. Cottonwood/willow habitat does not occur within the Proposed Action or action alternative sites.

Areas dominated by weeds have been disturbed by past or current ground-disturbing construction activities or past grazing activities. Weed species observed include fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), and the exotics cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*). Noxious weeds observed at Buckley AFB include the exotics Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*) and leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) (Buckley AFB 2004b).

Landscaped areas consist of turf grass (Kentucky bluegrass, common Bermuda grass, wintergrass, and Alta fescue mixes). Ornamental tree species planted on Buckley AFB consist of green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and buffalo juniper (*Juniperus sabina*). Additionally, shelterbelts consisting of several rows of shrubs and deciduous trees are used along property boundaries to filter noise, high winds, and dust from high traffic areas.

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The vegetation at the Proposed Action site and each of the alternatives is composed primarily of non-native species indicating that each of the sites was previously disturbed in the past. A description of the vegetation present at each site is discussed below.

Proposed Action

The vegetation at the Proposed Action site is mostly weedy species including bindweed, cheatgrass, and crested wheatgrass, as well as Russian thistle on the western portion of the site. The site consisted of 40 percent bare ground and some vegetation may have been previously treated with herbicide as much of it was dead at the time of the site visit. No trees are present on the site or in the near vicinity.

A total of 23 wetlands were identified during a 2001 survey (Buckley AFB 2004b). Of these 23 wetlands, only one is in the vicinity of the Proposed Action or its alternatives (Figure 3-4). This wetland is a natural drainage, though it is dry most of the year and is considered jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because it is connected to Toll Gate Creek to the west. It is classified as palustrine emergent, which are wetlands characterized by herbaceous perennial vegetation that is present during the majority of the growing season (Cowardin et al. 1979).

Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 site is comprised of midgrass prairie grasses, as well as Canada thistle, fringed sage, Russian thistle, and sunflower (*Helianthus* sp.). No trees are present in the site, several cottonwoods and willows are present north of the site in Toll Gate Creek. Toll Gate Creek is located north and downgradient from the Alternative 1 site.

Alternative 2

The Alternative 2 site is characterized by mostly weedy species with three mature ponderosa pine and eight Siberian elm trees planted at the southern end of the site.

3.8.1.2 Impacts

This section describes potential impacts to vegetation and wetlands from construction of the Proposed Action or alternatives for the SFOF. Under the Proposed Action or either of the action alternatives, temporary impacts would occur on 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) and permanent impacts would occur 1.6 ac (0.64 ha).

Wetlands are not located within the Proposed Action, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2 sites, and would not be directly affected. Fifty-foot buffers around the wetland would be established for construction and operation of the new facility to minimize potential indirect impacts. Erosion and sediment control BMPs required by SWPPPs (e.g., silt fences), as well as spill prevention, control, and countermeasure procedures identified in the Buckley AFB Integrated Environmental Response Plan, would be implemented to further reduce the potential for impacts to wetlands.

The filling of wetlands and waters of the U.S. is regulated under the Clean Water Act, and construction in or near these sensitive areas would require Buckley AFB to apply for CWA Section 404 permits (Buckley AFB 2004b). The ROI consists of the boundaries of the impacted

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wetland. Therefore, it is expected that no permits would be required, and wetlands are not discussed further.

Proposed Action

Impacts to vegetation would be construction-related, since operation of the facilities would have no direct or indirect effects on vegetation. In the short-term, approximately 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) of vegetation would be disturbed during construction. Once construction is complete, approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) would be permanently lost. Construction impacts to vegetation would be generally direct and long-term in duration. Adverse impacts to vegetation would be minimized by revegetation of disturbed areas not planned for buildings, parking lots, streets, or landscaping. Revegetation would consist of seeding with native grass mix as soon as possible after construction is complete. The vegetation at the Proposed Action site is of low quality due to the presence of weedy species; therefore, impacts would be direct and minor. Additionally, no trees would be removed for construction of the facility under the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative

No adverse impacts to vegetation or wetlands are expected under the No Action Alternative as no proposed facilities would be constructed or operated.

Alternative 1

Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in direct and minor adverse impacts to grassland vegetation. As with the Proposed Action, approximately 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) of vegetation would be disturbed during construction. Once construction is complete, approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) would be permanently lost. Adverse impacts to vegetation would be minimized by revegetation of disturbed areas not planned for buildings, parking lots, streets, or landscaping. Revegetation would consist of seeding with native grass mix as soon as possible after construction is complete; therefore, impacts would be direct and minor. Additionally, no trees would be removed for construction of the facility under the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

As with the Proposed Action, approximately 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) of vegetation would be disturbed during construction. Once construction is complete, approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) would be permanently lost. Adverse impacts to vegetation would be minimized by revegetation of disturbed areas not planned for buildings, parking lots, streets, or landscaping. Revegetation would consist of seeding with native grass mix as soon as possible after construction is complete; Therefore, Alternative 2 would result in direct and minor impacts to previously disturbed vegetation since. Additionally, no trees would be removed for construction of the facility under Alternative 2.

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3.8.2 Wildlife

This section describes the wildlife species and their habitat associations at Buckley AFB. No aquatic habitat occurs within any of the proposed alternatives; therefore, animals associated with permanent water sources are not included in this analysis.

3.8.2.1 Affected Environment

The wildlife species known to occur base wide are described as follows:

Mammals

No ungulates occur on the base due to the exclusion fencing around the perimeter, although pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) historically occurred on the base and still inhabit surrounding properties (Buckley AFB 2004b).

Carnivores inhabiting Buckley AFB include red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*).

Small mammals observed at Buckley AFB include rodents and lagomorphs (rabbits). The most widely observed of these is the black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Prairie dogs are considered keystone species of the shortgrass prairie ecosystem as they support a diverse array of other plant and wildlife species within their colonies. Prairie dogs are discussed in more detail in Section 3.8.3

Other rodents known to inhabit Buckley AFB include plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*), thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and prairie vole (*Microtus ochrogaster*). Common lagomorphs include black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), white-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendi*), eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*).

Birds

The midgrass prairie community supports numerous bird species, many of which are ground-nesters. The most common songbirds inhabiting prairie, such as that supported at Buckley AFB, include western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), lark bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), black-billed magpie (*Pica pica*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Species more common in urbanized areas include house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and non-native house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Raptor species known or likely to occur at Buckley AFB include the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; discussed further in Section 3.8.4), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Additionally, bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and rough-legged hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) may be observed in winter.

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Reptiles and Amphibians

Plains spadefoot toad (*Spea bombifrons*) and great plains toads (*Bufo cognatus*) occupy grassland habitat along riparian floodplains and may occur on Buckley AFB (Hammerson 1999). Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) and northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) have been observed on the base but are generally found near a permanent water source, which does not occur in the vicinity of any of the four proposed projects or their project alternatives.

A variety of reptile species inhabit Buckley AFB; some of the more commonly observed species include northern prairie lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus garmani*), bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer*), western hognose snake (*Heterodon nasicus*), plains garter snake (*Thamnophis radix*), and prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) (Buckley AFB 2004b).

The existing wildlife habitats at the Proposed Action and action alternatives sites are described below.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action site has low quality wildlife habitat but does support a low density of prairie dogs and cottontail rabbits. No trees or other quality vegetative cover is present.

Alternative 1

The Alternative 1 site supports moderate quality wildlife habitat due to the presence of trees associated with Toll Gate Creek to the north of the site and the presence of prairie dogs. This site likely supports ground-nesting birds, raptors, small- and medium-sized mammals, and reptiles, as discussed in Section 3.8.3.1. No raptor or other bird nests were observed in the trees.

Alternative 2

The habitat at this site is low quality as it is mostly weedy but does support prairie dogs and has several large trees on the southern portion of the site that could provide habitat for nesting birds.

3.8.2.2 Impacts

This section analyzes potential impacts to wildlife species from construction of the Proposed Action and alternatives for the SFOF. The ROI analyzed for impacts to wildlife include the Proposed Action and its alternative sites, as well as immediately adjacent habitats.

Impacts to wildlife from construction of the Proposed Action or alternatives include habitat loss, disturbance (avoidance and displacement) from construction or operation, and mortality to small-sized animals from crushing, burial, or lethal prairie dog removal (e.g., fumigation, see section 3.8.3.2). Habitat loss results from permanent removal of existing vegetation and replacement with pavement or structures; habitat loss may be temporary in areas that are revegetated after construction. The destruction of black-tailed prairie dog colonies would result in the permanent loss of habitat for species dependent on prairie dog colonies for food or shelter. Potential impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs are discussed further in Section 3.8.3.2.

Construction activity under any of the action alternatives is likely to temporarily displace many animals due to noise, human presence, and heavy equipment. The duration and distance an

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animal is displaced is generally dependent on the individual or species, and an individual's response to disturbance may change with time. Although the large undeveloped areas on base would provide potential habitat for displaced individuals, these areas are already occupied by wildlife, and therefore, displaced species may be susceptible to predation or competitive stress. Direct impacts from mortality to smaller, less mobile species would occur during construction from ground clearing and earth-moving.

Nearly all bird species present in the project area are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), a federal act that prohibits destruction or disturbance of active nests that results in loss of eggs or young without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All wild birds, including raptors, are protected under the MBTA, except for non-native species mentioned above. Vegetation-clearing, earth-moving, and other construction activities have the potential to destroy nests of bird species protected under the MBTA.

Under the Proposed Action or action alternatives, ground-disturbing activities (such as earth-moving and vegetation-clearing) may destroy bird nests of arboreal and ground-nesting species if construction occurs during breeding season, generally between 01 March and 31 October. Additionally, noise from heavy equipment operation and other construction activities may temporarily disturb nesting birds, possibly resulting in nest abandonment.

To avoid potential adverse impacts to ground-nesting birds and to comply with the MBTA, all vegetation should be cleared prior to 01 March or after 31 October. If construction occurs during the nesting season and vegetation has not been cleared, surveys for active ground nests should be conducted (including ground nests). If active nests occur on site, protective buffers should be implemented in coordination with USFWS.

Construction of this facility would temporarily disturb 4.9 ac (2.0 ha) and permanently remove 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of wildlife habitat. Impacts specific to the Proposed Action or alternatives are discussed below.

Proposed Action

Impacts to wildlife under the Proposed Action would be minor, short- and long-term, and direct. Direct effects include the loss of potential wildlife habitat, however, this loss of habitat is considered minor due to the disturbed state of the site. In addition, the ongoing construction to the west of the site would likely limit wildlife use of the area. The construction of the SFOF represents a long-term but minor loss of wildlife habitat. In addition, prairie dogs that inhabit the Proposed Action site would require removal; removal of these burrows would represent a loss of habitat for predators and other animals inhabiting prairie dog burrows, such as rabbits, rodents, and reptiles, if present. Fumigating black-tailed prairie dogs for removal from the project area, if necessary, could also result in mortality to the other non-target animals potentially inhabiting prairie dog burrows.

No Action Alternative

No impacts to wildlife are expected under the No Action Alternative as no proposed facilities would be constructed or operated.

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Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, impacts to wildlife would be minor to moderate, short- and long-term, direct and indirect impacts from construction. Impacts would be greater in intensity than the Proposed Action as the Alternative 1 site provides better quality wildlife habitat due to its proximity to wetlands, greater vegetative cover, and the lack of construction in the immediate area. In addition, prairie dogs that inhabit the Alternative 1 site would require removal; removal of these burrows would represent a loss of habitat for predators and other animals inhabiting prairie dog burrows, such as rabbits, rodents, and reptiles, if present. Fumigating black-tailed prairie dogs for removal from the project area, if necessary, could also result in mortality to the other non-target animals potentially inhabiting prairie dog burrows.

Alternative 2

Impacts under the Alternative 2 would consist of moderate, short- and long-term, and direct construction impacts. As described under Alternative 1, prairie dogs that inhabit the Alternative 2 site would require removal, which would result in loss of habitat for wildlife. Fumigating black-tailed prairie dogs for removal from the project area, if necessary, could also result in mortality to the other non-target animals potentially inhabiting prairie dog burrows. Indirect impacts may occur from disturbance to nesting birds in the trees adjacent to the site if construction occurs during the general bird-nesting season and nests are present.

3.8.3 Threatened, Endangered, and Other Sensitive Species

Threatened and endangered plant and animal species are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or Colorado State law. An endangered species is defined as any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; a threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Other sensitive species include those listed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as special concern, which receive no formal protection, but are still considered when assessing potential project impacts. The ROI for threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species is Buckley AFB.

3.8.3.1 Affected Environment

Federal and Colorado state listed threatened and endangered species, as well as CDOW species of concern, are shown in Table 3-5. Black-tailed prairie dogs and burrowing owls are known to occur within or near the Proposed Action or the alternative sites, these species are discussed in more detail below.

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Table 3-5
Threatened, Endangered, and Other Sensitive Species
and Their Occurrence at Buckley AFB

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status		Potential for Occurrence on Site
		Federal	State	
Mammals				
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	--	SC	Present.
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	E	Not present; Buckley AFB is within Block Clearance Zone in Colorado.
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	--	SC	Unlikely; occurs on eastern plains of Colorado in areas of native prairie. No observations at Buckley AFB.
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	T, PDL	T	Not present; Buckley AFB is within the Denver Metropolitan Block Clearance Zone.
Birds				
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	--	T	Present. Nesting locations in vicinity of the Proposed Action and action alternatives.
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	T	Occasional visitor; no known nest or roost locations within base.
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	--	SC	Potentially present; no known nesting locations
Plains Sharp-tailed grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesii</i>	--	E	Potentially present; no known nesting locations.
Amphibians				
Northern leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	--	SC	Potentially present in association with permanent water sources. No permanent water sources in any proposed or alternative sites.
Plant Species				
Colorado butterfly plant	<i>Gaura neomexicana</i> ssp. <i>coloradensis</i>	T	--	Unlikely; survey conducted in 2004 with none found.
Utes ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	T	--	Unlikely; surveys conducted in 2001 with none found.

T = Threatened

E = Endangered

PDL = Proposed for Delisting, based on 70 Federal Register 5404-5411, February 2, 2005

SC = Species of Special Concern in Colorado, CDOW listing

Source: Buckley AFB 2004

Black-tailed Prairie Dog

The black-tailed prairie dog was a Candidate for Listing under the ESA in 2000, but was removed from this status in 2004. However, black-tailed prairie dogs are still considered a species of special concern by the CDOW due to their role as a keystone species and their importance to the shortgrass prairie ecosystem.

Black-tailed prairie dogs occur in many areas throughout Buckley AFB. They inhabit burrows, which form networks of tunnels, typically 3 to 6 ft (0.7 to 1.8 m) deep. Many other species inhabit prairie dog burrows, including burrowing owls, cottontails, other rodents, reptiles, insects, and spiders (Hoogland 1995).

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During site visits, prairie dogs were observed on the Proposed Action and both alternative sites. Figure 3-5 shows the location prairie dog colonies in relation to the Proposed Action and alternative sites.

Buckley AFB has a *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001) in place to address management of active black-tailed prairie dog colonies. This EA specifies that if a prairie dog colony would be impacted by a Proposed Action, then prairie dogs would be removed prior to construction using approved removal methods described in the EA.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls are listed as threatened in Colorado but also receive federal protection under the MBTA. Burrowing owls nest in abandoned prairie dog burrows and are generally present on base from early March to late October. Burrowing owls may be present at the Proposed Action site or the alternative sites during these months since prairie dogs are present at all three sites. In addition, nests have been observed south of the Proposed Action site within the past four years (Figure 3-5). During 2005 site visits, no evidence of burrowing owl nests was observed on the Proposed Action or action alternative sites. However, locations of nests may differ from year to year. Pre-construction nest surveys would determine the presence of burrowing owls on a site between 01 March and 31 October.

3.8.3.2 Impacts

This section analyzes potential impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs (Colorado species of special concern) and burrowing owls (Colorado threatened) from implementation of the Proposed Action and each alternative. The ROI includes the Proposed Action and action alternative sites, as well as adjacent areas.

Proposed Action

Black-tailed Prairie Dog

Approved prairie dog removal methods, including non-lethal and lethal methods, are described and analyzed in the *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001). However, because the black-tailed prairie dog was a federal candidate species when the EA was written, it only described and analyzed the use of approved lethal removal methods under specific circumstances. With the recent delisting of the black-tailed prairie dog, lethal methods, as well as methods not described in the *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001) (such as transferring prairie dogs to raptor facilities) may be used in any circumstance to eliminate safety- and/or mission-related impacts that occur due to the presence of this species (e.g., prairie dogs provide prey for raptors that contribute to bird-aircraft strike hazards). Therefore, impacts from lethal removal methods and transfer to raptor facilities are analyzed in this SFOF EA.

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Figure 3-5 Prairie Dogs and Burrowing Owls on Buckley AFB

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Direct, adverse impacts to prairie dogs would occur from construction of the Proposed Action. Although black-tailed prairie dogs were recently delisted as a federal candidate species, the *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001) still provides black-tailed prairie dog management directive until it is revised or replaced by another EA or management directive. Prairie dogs are still considered a species of special concern in Colorado and their burrows do support numerous other wildlife species, including nesting burrowing owls.

The *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001) specifies that if a prairie dog colony would be impacted by a Proposed Action, then prairie dogs would be removed prior to construction. The EA addresses the impacts of using approved non-lethal methods, but only covers the impacts from lethal methods under specific circumstances, and does not consider options that are now available given the delisting of this species, such as transferring to a raptor facility.

The preferred method of removing prairie dogs is transfer to a raptor facility. Although this does not result in direct mortality of individuals, transfer to a raptor facility could still result in adverse impacts to individual black-tailed prairie dogs because they are part of the prey base for these birds. Approved lethal methods of removal, such as fumigation, would result in the direct loss of individual prairie dogs. Therefore, impacts to prairie dogs as a result of habitat loss, transfer, or lethal removal under the Proposed Action would be moderate and long-term.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls have nested in various locations throughout Buckley AFB where suitable prairie dog habitat occurs (Figure 3-5). Indirect and long-term impacts to burrowing owls would include loss of habitat when a prairie dog colony is destroyed and replaced with the proposed facility. The loss of prairie dog colonies would reduce the availability of burrowing owl nest sites, although nest sites would still be available in other areas of Buckley AFB.

Burrowing owls may be present during the breeding season (between 01 March and 31 October) at the Proposed Action site. To deter a burrowing owl from nesting in or near a construction site, prairie dogs should be removed and burrows destroyed prior to 01 March. However, if this is not possible, and should construction occur during the burrowing owl nesting season, pre-construction surveys would be conducted to determine the presence or absence of nesting burrowing owls at the proposed site, in accordance with the *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001). If nesting burrowing owls are present, a 150-ft (45.72 m) buffer would be established around active nest sites during the breeding season to protect owls from disturbances associated with construction, especially increased noise. Given these measures, direct and short-term impacts to nesting individuals or young burrowing owls from construction-related noise would be negligible.

No direct impacts to burrowing owls would be anticipated from black-tailed prairie dog removal under the Proposed Action or action alternatives. In accordance with the *Supplement to Environmental Assessment of Proposed Prairie Dog Practices at Buckley Air Force Base* (Buckley AFB 2001), should construction occur during the burrowing owl nesting season, pre-construction surveys would be conducted to determine the presence or absence of nesting burrowing owls at the proposed site. If nesting burrowing owls are identified, then prairie dog removal would not be conducted.

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No Action

No impacts to threatened, endangered, or other sensitive species are expected under the No Action Alternative as the proposed SFOF would not be constructed or operated.

Alternative 1

Under the Alternative 1, the impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs would be minor to moderate, short- and long-term, direct and indirect impacts from construction. Impacts to burrowing owls would be moderate, direct and indirect, short- and long-term. Impacts include the loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of potential habitat.

Impacts would be greater in intensity than the Proposed Action as the Alternative 1 site provides better quality wildlife habitat due to its proximity to wetlands, greater vegetative cover, and the lack of construction in the immediate area. In addition, prairie dogs that inhabit the Alternative 1 site would require removal; removal of these burrows would represent a loss of habitat for burrowing owls if present.

Alternative 2

Impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs under the Alternative 2 would consist of moderate, direct, long-term impacts. Impacts to burrowing owls would be moderate, direct and indirect, short- and long-term. Impacts include the loss of approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha) of potential habitat. As described under Alternative 1, prairie dogs that inhabit the Alternative 2 site would require removal, which would also result in loss of habitat for burrowing owls.

3.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE

This section discusses hazardous materials and waste issues at Buckley AFB related to construction of the Proposed Action or action alternatives. This discussion includes asbestos, Buckley AFB Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Sites, fuel storage tanks, radon, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Solid waste and pollution prevention is addressed in Section 3.10. The ROI for hazardous materials and wastes is Buckley AFB.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

Site visits were conducted at the Proposed Action location on June 28, 2004 and August 9, 2005. A site visit was conducted at the alternative locations on August 9, 2005. Sites were observed by walking the site perimeter and transecting the internal areas of the property.

Asbestos

World War II (WWII) era buildings were onsite at Buckley AFB around 1944 (Figure 3-6). These buildings were demolished during the late 1940s and early 1950s. The building materials were removed from the base but many of the foundations were left behind. The wide use of

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Figure 3-6 Former, Existing, and Future Structures at Buckley AFB

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asbestos prior to 1980 contributes to the concern that the demolition debris that was buried or spread may have contained asbestos, and may not have been mitigated to today's standards. All projects should be evaluated before construction begins for such material but especially so for the projects in old WWII building areas (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Installation Restoration Program

The IRP is a program category under the Air Force Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The scope of the IRP is investigation and cleanup of Air Force sites whose past activities created contamination primarily from hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, low level radioactive materials or wastes, or petroleum, oils and lubricants. The Buckley IRP consists of ten sites, two of which have been closed, and one Area of Concern at the Buckley Annex. ERP sites are illustrated in Figure 3-7.

Also ongoing is an expansion of the Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection conducted by the Colorado ANG in the 1980s. This nationwide search for historical Army, Navy, and National Guard records is designed to determine whether there are contaminated sites not previously discovered at Buckley.

Military Munitions Response Program

The MMRP is another program category under the ERP. The scope of the MMRP is investigation and cleanup of other-than operational ranges contaminated with military munitions, e.g., unexploded ordnance (UXO), or chemical residues of munitions. Buckley AFB currently has two MMRP sites, the abandoned outdoor range and the former skeet range (Figure 3-7).

The Air Force MMRP is centrally managed by Air Staff, which recently initiated a Comprehensive Site Evaluation, Phase I, at each base to identify additional MMRP sites that may require responses to protect human health and the environment.

Fuel Storage Tanks

Prior to 1998, the majority of underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from Buckley AFB (Buckley AFB 2005a). However, aboveground storage tanks (AST) are still located at several locations around the base. Buckley AFB has a current Draft Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Control (SPCC) Plan that is incorporated into the Integrated Environmental Response Plan.

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, radioactive gas produced by naturally decaying uranium. Extended exposure to high levels of radon is a suspected carcinogen. Federal guidelines determine levels below four picocuries per liter (pCi/L) are low risk. Buckley AFB is located within an area of highest potential for radon gas decay (levels that are above 4 pCi/L). An on-site radon assessment was conducted for every building at Buckley AFB from 16 – 19 Aug 2004. Results ranged from 0.0 to 8.4 pCi/l; all locations but two were below the EPA standard of 4.0 pCi/l, Building 40 (6.0 pCi/l) and Room 113 of Building 1500 (8.4 pCi/l) (Buckley AFB 2005c).

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Figure 3-7 Environmental Restoration Program and Munitions Response Program Sites Map

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Poly-chlorinated biphenyls

By federal definition, “PCB equipment” contains 500 parts per million (ppm) PCBs or greater; whereas “PCB-contaminated equipment” contains PCB concentrations equal to or greater than 50 ppm, but less than 500 ppm; and “PCB items” contain from 5 to 49 ppm PCBs. The electrical system at Buckley AFB is working toward becoming PCB-free. All transformers with PCB concentrations over 500 ppm have been removed, replaced, or retrofitted to below 50 ppm (Buckley AFB 2000).

Proposed Action

No former WWII structures were located on the Proposed Action site.

Based on base interviews and documents reviewed, the proposed SFOF is located within the southern boundaries of IRP Site 6, Storm Drainage System, Building 801. The IRP Site 6 is located to the southwest of the aircraft parking area and consists of a system of drains, pipes, culverts, and ditches that channeled stormwater runoff from the aircraft washing area. Fuel, cleaning compounds, ethylene glycol, paints, and strippers were rinsed from the washing area into the storm drainage system from 1942 to 1982 (Radian 1998). Sampling of both sediment and groundwater occurred within the storm drainage system area, and it was determined that remediation of the soil/groundwater was not needed. A No Further Response Action Plan was established with the decision that IRP Site 6 posed a negligible risk to human health and the environment. In coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Buckley AFB closed IRP Site 6.

A skeet range was operated southwest of the Proposed Action location for the SFOF from 1942 to as late as 1975. Lead shot from shotgun discharge and debris from shattered targets (pigeons) littered the range (Spangler personal communication). In preparation for construction of Building 1030, the section of the skeet range between Aspen Way and Aspen Street (closest to the firing areas) was cleaned up in 2003 during a non-regulated custodial action. The section west of Aspen Way remains an MMRP site. East of Aspen Street, borrow material from the skeet range was used to extend the current runway to the west, and to fill the surrounding area to make it level with the existing runway. The exact areas where the borrow material was used is unknown, but may have been used within the proposed building area. The borrow material may contain remnants of both lead contained in the shot and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons present in the pigeons.

There are no known fuel storage tanks located on or adjacent to the site.

Radon levels might need to be considered at the Proposed Action site, given that the USEPA lists Buckley AFB in an area of highest potential for radon decay (greater than 4 pCi/L).

No Action Alternative

Site conditions would remain as they currently are under the No Action Alternative.

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Alternative 1

There is no evidence of former WWII structures being located at the Alternative 1 location.

IRP Site 3, the former landfill, is located to the north of the site. IRP Site 3 is under continued site characterization for the next few years. The Alternative 1 location is located outside of the boundary of Site 3.

There are no known MMRP sites, or known fuel storage tanks, present in the Alternative 1 area.

Radon levels might need to be considered at the Alternative 1 site, given that the USEPA lists Buckley AFB in an area of highest potential for radon decay (greater than 4 pCi/L).

Alternative 2

Based on review of base documents, post-WWII buildings that had been constructed for troop housing and training on the proposed Alternative 2 location were demolished. The location of the debris is generally unknown. An outside contractor recently performed sampling of the area. Of the 81 samples that were collected at the site, all were non-detect for asbestos (URS 2005b).

Alternative 2 is not located within a former IRP or MMRP site, nor are there any known fuel storage areas present.

Radon levels might need to be considered at the Alternative 2 site, given that the USEPA lists Buckley AFB in an area of highest potential for radon decay (greater than 4 pCi/L).

3.9.2 Impacts

This section discusses areas of potential environmental concern associated with the proposed construction. Because the proposed action and alternatives would not disturb PCB equipment, PCB-contaminated equipment, or PCB items, nor would it introduce any PCB-containing equipment to Buckley AFB, PCBs are not discussed further.

Proposed Action

No impacts are expected from asbestos, past IRP or MMRP sites, or fuel storage tanks at the Proposed Action location. While impacts from the IRP Site 6 are not expected during the construction project, it is located within the proposed building area. Adverse impacts may potentially occur during construction as a result of the possibility for encountering contamination associated with the abandoned skeet range borrow material used to extend the current runway. If contamination is encountered, it would be managed in accordance with appropriate regulations and AF policy.

Radon levels may be of concern during operation of the SFOF. However, appropriate steps would be taken to monitor and mitigate potential radon impacts.

No other hazardous material or waste impacts were identified at the Proposed Action location.

No Action Alternative

No direct impacts to or from hazardous materials and wastes are expected as a result of the No Action Alternative.

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1

No impacts are expected from asbestos, former IRP or MMRP sites, or fuel storage areas.

Radon levels may be of concern during operation of the SFOF. However, appropriate steps would be taken to monitor and mitigate potential radon impacts.

No other hazardous material or waste impacts are expected at the Alternative 1 location.

Alternative 2

No impacts are expected from asbestos, former IRP or MMRP sites, or fuel storage areas.

Radon levels may be of concern during operation of the SFOF. However, appropriate steps would be taken to monitor and mitigate potential radon impacts.

No other hazardous material or waste impacts are expected at the Alternative 2 location.

3.10 SOLID WASTE AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The USAF Pollution Prevention (P2) Program encompasses a range of environmental management functions, including recycling, hazardous/toxic chemicals reduction, green (environmentally friendly) procurement, and waste minimization. The USAF Solid Waste Program deals specifically with the management and reduction of solid waste streams. Both of these programs may affect nearly every aspect of operations at Buckley AFB. The ROI for solid waste and pollution prevention is Buckley AFB and solid waste disposal sites.

Each Air Force Base is required to have a Qualified Recycling Program (QRP), and all facilities at an installation must participate in the QRP. Under the QRP, readily accessible containers should be provided in work areas as appropriate for the accumulation of the following recyclables: copier paper, plastic, metals, glass, used oil, lead-acid batteries, cardboard, newspaper, and tires. A recycling contractor empties recycling containers on a regular schedule and recycles the collected materials.

Reduction of hazardous material use at USAF installations is normally achieved through the implementation of a hazardous materials pharmacy (HAZMART), a centralized location for inventory, control, and distribution of hazardous materials to authorized shops. Buckley AFB has a “virtual” HAZMART, meaning that the installation does not distribute hazardous materials from a central location, but instead tracks and controls use through a computerized tracking system. Reduction efforts focus on the “EPA 17” industrial toxics; seventeen compounds prioritized by USEPA for reduction due to particularly high associated environmental and human health hazards. Various initiatives are used to reduce use, including control of use through the chemical authorization process, limits on quantities distributed, and substitution of non-hazardous products. ODS’ are also targeted for reduced use or substitution under AFI 32-7086.

Green Procurement is the USAF initiative established to comply with federal Affirmative Procurement requirements. Green Procurement seeks to direct USAF purchasing power toward the procurement of high recycled-content goods, Energy Star® and energy-efficient products, energy-efficient standby power devices, alternative fuel vehicles/alternative fuels, bio-based products, non-ODS, and EPA Priority Chemicals.

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.10.1 Affected Environment

The USAF P2 and Solid Waste Programs facilitate the reduction of solid waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous) through adjustments to the behaviors and work practices of facility personnel. The mission at Buckley AFB demands a variety of industrial and non-industrial facilities and processes. The P2 and Solid Waste Management Programs impact all of these, and would have impacts on operations at any new facilities constructed at Buckley AFB. New facilities would be required to participate in the same USAF P2 and solid waste management activities as similar existing facilities.

A private contractor provides solid waste collection and disposal services at Buckley AFB. Waste is collected from dumpsters located throughout the base and routinely transported to the Denver-Arapahoe Disposal Site in Arapahoe County. Buckley AFB generated approximately 1,500 tons of non-hazardous waste in FY02, with 0.6 tons of this waste being construction and demolition derived wastes.

3.10.2 Impacts

Proposed Action

Building construction and delivery of construction supplies would increase solid waste generation (e.g., concrete, building materials, any associated construction debris) during the project performance period. Certain forms of construction-related solid waste might be eligible for diversion to recycling. Construction contractors should attempt to recycle waste materials for which a market exists, procure materials whenever feasible per USAF Green Procurement requirements, minimize the use of hazardous materials during construction, and remove any unused hazardous and non-hazardous wastes at the conclusion of project performance.

Since the Proposed Action is limited to replacing facilities that are scattered in different locations at Buckley AFB with little or no change to existing personnel and operations, no major changes to P2 initiatives or solid waste generation are anticipated following construction of the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative

Solid waste generation at Buckley AFB would not increase under the No Action Alternative. Buckley AFB P2 and solid waste management would be unaffected.

Alternative 1

Impacts from Alternative 1 would be the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

Impacts from Alternative 2 would be the same as the Proposed Action.

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.11 TRANSPORTATION

The ROI for transportation includes traffic flow within and around Buckley AFB.

3.11.1 Affected Environment

Buckley AFB is situated within the Denver Metropolitan Area (Figure 1-1). Three major arterial routes surround Denver, including I-25, I-70, and I-76. A north-south trending road, I-225, runs between and connects I-25 and I-70. In addition, E-470, a toll road that runs north-south near the eastern boundary of Buckley AFB, provides an alternate beltway route around the Denver metropolitan area. Intersecting with I-225 running east-west are two major arteries, 6th Avenue and Mississippi Avenue; E-470 also provides access to these streets. Access to Buckley AFB is available via gates at the intersections of Aspen Street and 6th Avenue (North Gate), Aspen Street and Mississippi Avenue (South Gate), 6th Avenue and Telluride Avenue (Telluride Gate), and 6th Avenue and Piccadilly Street (East Gate). Traffic through the Telluride Gate is primarily Base Exchange/Commissary traffic, while munitions traffic enters the base through the East Gate. Aspen Street is a four-lane, divided street running north to south from the North Gate to the South Gate. All vehicles entering and departing the installation must use Aspen Street. Breckenridge and Steamboat avenues distribute traffic from Aspen Street to the industrial and flightline areas.

Proposed Action

The primary point of egress under the Proposed Action would occur from the existing access drive serving the Fire Station, with Aspen Avenue located less than 200 feet away. Aspen Avenue, a four-lane divided roadway has been programmed to handle projected traffic increases.

No Action Alternative

Traffic flows would be unchanged as a result of the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 1

The primary point of egress under Alternative 1 would be from Aspen Street via an access road that would need to be constructed to provide facility access.

Alternative 2

The primary point of egress under Alternative 2 would be from Breckenridge Street.

3.11.2 Impacts

Proposed Action

Accessing the Proposed Action location would redirect traffic from the existing SFOF to a new location. No new employees are expected to be brought onto base to staff the proposed facility, as staff would move from the existing facility. Although traffic loads may increase slightly

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

during construction, there would be no major changes to the existing traffic patterns or delays at existing gates. Therefore, impacts to transportation are expected to be minimal.

Alternative 1

Accessing the Alternative 1 site would redirect traffic from the existing SFOF in the northern portion of the base, to the Alternative 1 location on the southern portion of the base. However, the number of people accessing the site daily would not have a major impact on traffic flow. Although traffic loads may increase slightly during construction, changes would be minimal to the existing traffic patterns, capacity, and volume. No new employees would be brought onto base to staff the proposed facility, as staff would be relocated from existing facilities. Therefore, transportation impacts as a result of Alternative 1 are expected to be minimal.

Alternative 2

Impacts from Alternative 2 would be the same as those listed for the Proposed Action.

3.12 UTILITIES

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Public providers supply water, natural gas, and electrical power to Buckley AFB. Since 2001, Buckley AFB has been proactive in increasing the capacity of its infrastructure systems.

Water System

Potable water is provided by the city of Aurora directly to Buckley AFB facilities without supplementary treatment. There are two connections to the city pipelines: (1) along 6th Avenue, a water main connects to a line that provides the primary source of potable water to the installation; and (2) along Mississippi Avenue, a water main provides emergency backup should the water main on 6th Avenue fail. There are no contractual limits on the amount of water the installation may use (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Sanitary Sewer

Wastewater flow from Buckley AFB is conveyed through an on-base sanitary sewer system to the city of Aurora's wastewater collection system, and then to one of two wastewater treatment facilities. The majority of the installation's sanitary sewer system is composed of vitrified clay pipe, which was installed in the 1940s and 1950s. The more recently installed sections of sewer main are Polyvinyl Chloride pipe, which is now used for all sewer upgrades on the installation (Buckley AFB 2005a). The wastewater is primarily directed to and treated at the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, located at 64th Avenue and York Street. The city of Aurora's total flow contribution to this treatment facility ranges between 18 and 20 million gallons per day. The other treatment facility, the Sand Creek Treatment Facility, is owned and operated by the city of Aurora and processes approximately 10 percent of Aurora's total discharge (Farrington 2005).

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Storm Drainage

Stormwater is collected and transmitted through a system of surface ditches and channels. An underground storm sewer/pipeline drainage system has been installed at a number of locations including around the runway, portions of the taxiways, and the hangars and facilities north of the main ramp. These structures direct stormwater to the City of Aurora's municipal separate storm sewer system and natural drainage channels, namely Murphy Creek, Sand Creek, and East Toll Gate Creek. There are two primary drainage basins — the Sand Creek basin and the East Toll Gate Creek Basin. The dividing line between them runs roughly parallel and east of Runway 14/32 (Buckley AFB 2005a).

Electrical System and Natural Gas

Buckley AFB receives electrical power and natural gas from Xcel Energy (Buckley AFB 2005a).

3.12.2 Impacts

Issues and concerns regarding infrastructure are related to creating stress on infrastructure systems, such that the existing infrastructure must be updated or changed. Assessing impacts to infrastructure entails a determination of infrastructure that would be used as a result of the Proposed Action or action alternatives.

Proposed Action

Utility lines are located along Aspen Street and would be extended to the Proposed Action site. No burden on the provider of utility support is anticipated because there is no anticipated increase in base personnel and spaces that need to be heated are increasing negligibly. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated on utilities as a result of the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on utilities.

Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would have the same needs for utilities as the Proposed Action. However, depending on the final footprint of Alternative 1, utilities may need to be extended to the site. According to utility maps in the Buckley AFB General Plan, water lines, electrical lines, and natural gas lines run parallel with Aspen Street and would have to be extended to the site. There are no sanitary sewer lines distributed within the vicinity of the Alternative 1 area. As a result, the base would need to expand the potable water, electric, natural gas, and sanitary sewer networks.

No burden on the provider of utility support is anticipated because there is no anticipated increase in base personnel and spaces that need to be heated are increasing negligibly. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated on utilities as a result of the Alternative 1.

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Alternative 2

Electrical power for the Alternative 2 site would be from existing underground lines that parallel A-Basin Avenue. Natural gas connection to the facility would access the current natural gas line running along the east side of Aspen Street, parallel to A-Basin Avenue and north of Breckenridge Avenue. A sanitary sewer line, trending east-west, is located near A-Basin Avenue. As a result, the base would need to expand the potable water, electric, natural gas, and sanitary sewer networks.

No burden on the provider of utility support is anticipated because there is no anticipated increase in base personnel and spaces that need to be heated are increasing negligibly. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated on utilities as a result of the Alternative 2.

3.13 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

EO 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations requires federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The environmental effect of federal actions, including human health, and economic and social effects on minority communities and low-income communities, are analyzed under this regulation. The existing environmental justice conditions were analyzed using the United States Census 2000 summary data in accordance with the methods presented in the 1997 Air Force publication: “*Interim Guide for Environmental Justice Analysis with the Environmental Impact Analysis Process*” (Department of the Air Force 1997).

Minority and low-income populations are defined as follows:

- Minority population refers to persons who are African American; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander; Other; and of Hispanic origin in census data and exceeding 50 percent of the population in an area or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population.
- Low-income refers to household income at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines or the Community Development Block Grant thresholds. Individuals falling below the poverty threshold are considered low-income individuals.

EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, directs federal agencies to (1) identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and (2) ensure that policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks. The ROI analyzed included Buckley AFB and areas immediately surrounding the base.

3.13.1 Affected Environment

The demographic profile of Arapahoe County, Colorado according to the Census 2000 (United States Census Bureau 2000) is shown in Table 3-6 below.

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Table 3-6
Racial Makeup of Arapahoe County, Colorado, 2000

Race	Percent of Population in Arapahoe County
Caucasian	79.9
Persons of Hispanic origin (of any race)	11.8
American Indian and Alaskan Native	0.7
Asian	3.9
African American	7.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1
Some other race	4.5
Two or more races	3.2
Total Minority Population	31.9

Source: 2000 US Census Bureau

Notes: the numbers may not add up to 100 percent because, according to the US Census Bureau, Hispanic origin is not a race, and persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

In 2000, Arapahoe County had a population of 487,967 that was expected to increase by approximately 7.1 percent to 522,812 in 2004.

Analysis of the 2000 US Census Bureau data indicates that minorities constitute approximately 31.9% of the population in Arapahoe County. Analysis of the minority constituency of Arapahoe County within the six census tracts surrounding Buckley AFB determined that minorities comprised 24.7% of the six census tracts (Buckley AFB 2004a). According to the United States Census 2000, 5.8% of the Arapahoe County population lives below the 2000 poverty level of \$8,794 (for an individual) or \$13,738 (family of three) (Buckley AFB 2004a). Of the six census tracts surrounding Buckley AFB, four exceed the 5.8% poverty level mark.

3.13.2 Impacts

Based on federal guidance, there would be adverse impacts if minority and/or low-income populations felt a disproportionate amount of the adverse effects of the actions.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction of the SFOF would result in ground disturbance located entirely within the boundaries of Buckley AFB, having minimal impacts to environmental resources. Surveys have documented that there are no wetlands, threatened or endangered species, or cultural resources present in the project area. Noise and air emissions (primarily PM₁₀ and fugitive dust) would be short-term and temporary and are not expected to adversely impact any minority or low-income populations. Standard construction practices would be implemented to minimize dust. If any hazardous substances would be stored at or transported to the site, the quantity would be negligible. There are no surface water bodies near the site. No military family housing is currently located on Buckley AFB, although housing is under construction; therefore, no family populations on base would be impacted by the Proposed Action. Furthermore, the Proposed Action would not pose a health risk to children. Because

SECTION THREE Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

there would be minimal adverse environmental impacts, there would be no disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations of all ages under the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not change existing conditions on Buckley AFB; therefore, there would be no disproportionate impacts to environmental justice populations and children.

Alternative 1

Impacts at the Alternative 1 location would be the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternative 2

Impacts at the Alternative 2 location would be the same as the Proposed Action.

The CEQ regulations require assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision-making process for federal projects. Cumulative impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively substantial actions undertaken over a period of time by various agencies or individuals. Informed decisionmaking is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future.

4.1 IMPACT ANALYSIS

Other projects evaluated in the cumulative impact analysis include planned or reasonably foreseeable projects both on Buckley AFB and off base. Planned or reasonably foreseeable projects were identified through a review of public documents and coordination with multiple agencies, and include both on- and off-base activities.

Off-Base Activities. The land adjacent to Buckley AFB is split between developed, agricultural, and grassland conservation areas. The city of Aurora’s *2003 Comprehensive Plan* identifies three planning areas near the base, each with its own identity and planned development pattern.

Colfax Corridor East of I-225. This area is adjacent to the northern boundary of Buckley AFB. The properties along Colfax Avenue tend to include older commercial uses, while many are vacant. The Northeast Colfax Area also includes the neighborhoods that are north and south of the corridor. Strategies identified by the city of Aurora for development in this area include:

- Working to enhance open space corridors through additional dedications or other means
- Confining non-residential uses to the corridor and to planned industrial areas, with the exception of neighborhood commercial or neighborhood institutional uses
- Locating multi-family and attached housing in appropriate areas, including adjacent to major streets, similar existing housing types, and other corridor properties
- Promoting infill development in residential neighborhoods, maintaining the overall average residential density close to the current benchmarks
- Encouraging and supporting the consolidation of parcels in the corridor to allow well-planned businesses or mixed-use projects

Active development proposals within the Colfax Corridor East of I-225 include:

- Monterrey Point – an approved, but not currently constructed residential community, containing approximately 354 units located near East Colfax and Sable Road;
- Colfax Mini Mall – an approved, but not currently constructed project, located on East Colfax near I-225;
- Eastpark 70 – 110-acre (44.5 ha) industrial park, currently being constructed at Smith Road and Sky Ranch;
- Cottage Grove – a residential development with approximately 104 units, currently under construction at Chambers Road at East 17th Avenue; and

- Cadence Retail – currently under construction, located at East Colfax and Eagle.

I-225 Corridor and City Area. This area is west of Buckley AFB and is associated with I-225 and the Aurora City Center. The I-225 corridor is the geographic center of the city of Aurora, and on the east side of the highway, the Aurora Mall, Aurora City Place, and Abilene power corridors comprise a regional retail location. Midway in the corridor lies the Aurora City Center, historically planned as the city's "downtown." Strategies identified by the city of Aurora for development in this area include:

- Continuing to work for transportation improvements including improvements to interchanges and Park-n-Ride locations
- Developing a strategy to encourage adaptive reuse of empty "big box" retail buildings
- Encouraging additional retail and medical-related office development in the corridor
- Working to expand the restaurant node at Iliff Avenue

Important development associated with the City Center includes:

- The Aurora Municipal Center (completed)
- Arapahoe County administrative annex (complete)
- New ADT company office building
- A 355-unit townhouse and elevator apartment complex (The Village)
- A 225-residential unit project (The Retreat at City Center)
- A revitalization of the Aurora Mall

Additionally, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) purchased property for and began construction on a new bus transfer facility at the City Center. The RTD plans to relocate its bus transfer facility here, and a light-rail station could be constructed in the future. Finally, a much smaller single-family housing development comprising 36.5 ac (14.8 ha) is under construction approximately 0.5 mi (0.8 km) west of Buckley AFB (460 CES/CEV 2004).

E-470 Corridor Area. This area is adjacent to the eastern and extreme southern boundary of Buckley AFB and includes the prairie areas east of the developed portion of the city where development is expected through 2020. The major feature of this area is the E-470 corridor from Denver International Airport in the north to Douglas County in the south. E-470 is a major interstate running north-south near the eastern boundary of Buckley AFB. The 1999 completion of the E-470 segment serving the Buckley AFB area, and the subsequent Jewell Avenue extension, provides the base with major highways on both its east and west sides with access to both the north and south gates. The E-470 toll road also provides a major regional beltway connecting the northern and southern limits of the metropolitan area and linking Denver International Airport with the I-25 corridor, opening significant amounts of vacant land for development. The city of Aurora *E-470 Corridor Land Use Study* identifies regional activity centers and the following theme areas within the corridor (460 CES/CEV 2004):

- Airport Corporate
- Airport Commercial/Distribution

- Regional Retail/Commercial
- Light Industrial/Flex Office
- Buckley Research and Development
- Residential
- Regional Park and Open Space
- Recreation/Entertainment

Strategies identified by the city of Aurora for development in the E-470 Corridor area include locating a major office park, retail centers, and airport-related activities in the corridor and working with the counties to ensure that critical, undeveloped enclaves of land in the corridor are annexed into Aurora. One of the more significant proposed developments within the E-470 Corridor area is the Horizon City Center, a 503-ac mixed use commercial, retail, and residential project located on the southwest corner of I-70 and E-470, within approximately one mi (1.6 km) of Buckley AFB.

Planned land use for the entire area abutting the eastern boundary of Buckley AFB is to incorporate the Buckley Research and Development theme. Small-scale office development is allowed to complement the Research and Development land use, and limited industrial and commercial services are permitted. Regionally, a residential development comprising 435 ac is currently under construction within 0.5 mi (0.8 km) of the southern limits of Buckley AFB. Just east of this development, a 490-ac (198-ha) residential development is also under construction (460 CES/CEV 2004).

On-Base Activities. Land use planning at Buckley AFB follows a rational and sequential decisionmaking process to reach a consensus for future growth while ensuring the efficient and compatible use of available land. The land use planning process establishes long-range goals and provides starting points to discuss land acquisition or disposal actions and siting of new facilities. This planning helps to define the best layout of land uses and transportation corridors to support functional effectiveness, efficiency, and compatibility. Both on- and off-base factors are considered. Land use planning guides infill development on currently vacant land, functional consolidation, and redesignation of land uses to accommodate doubling of the base's current population (460 CES/CEV 2004).

There are several existing and planned Capital Improvement Projects to support Buckley AFB's recent transition from an ANG base to an AFB and to facilitate future growth (Buckley AFB 2005a). Currently, military family housing is being constructed on base. In November 2003, Buckley AFB completed an EA on the third phase of a four-phase, multiyear infrastructure upgrade and expansion program. Proposed activities included upgrades to the Base's natural gas and electrical distribution systems, water and wastewater systems, and the roadway and circulation system. Other activities scheduled for 2004 included 13 projects totaling approximately 999,000 sq ft (92,810 sq m). These projects include adding to or altering access roads to the airfield and repairing parking lots. Activities scheduled for 2005 include 16 projects totaling approximately 380,000 sq ft (35,303 sq m). These projects include athletic fields, Army Aviation Support Facility, and Vail Street improvements. Activities scheduled for 2006 include an addition or alteration to the existing Communication Center, a youth center, a Consolidated Services Facility, and a Leadership Development Center. Projects scheduled for 2007 include a

Consolidated Fuels Facility, Logistics Readiness Facility, and Visitor Quarters. ANG projects scheduled for 2007 include a Taxiway Arm and Disarm, Alert Crew Quarters, an addition or alternation to the existing fire station, and replacement of the existing Squadron Operation Facility.

Table 4-1 summarizes potential cumulative effects on resources from the Proposed Action to construct and operate a SFOF at Buckley AFB, when combined with other past, present, and future activities. As indicated in Table 4-1, significant impacts to resources are not expected from the proposed projects.

Table 4-1
Cumulative Effects on Resources

Resource	Past Actions	Current Background Activities	Proposed Actions	Known Future Actions	Cumulative Effects
Land Use	Development of Aurora and Buckley AFB has extensively modified land use.	Military installations, commercial, residential, light industrial land uses.	Change from industrial to community service purposes, which conforms with the Buckley AFB General Plan.	Expansion of the city of Aurora located east of Buckley AFB	Changes to existing land use would have negligible effect on base or non-military lands surrounding Buckley AFB, as these changes are consistent with current plans.
Socioeconomics	Buckley AFB contributes to the local economic community.	Support of local economic community will be continued.	Minor contribution to local construction industry.	Continued development of Buckley AFB would impact local economy and services.	Minor stimulation of local economy, including schools and housing, in context of increased development of Buckley AFB.
Air Quality	Non-attainment area for CO and maintenance area for O ₃ and PM ₁₀ .	Emissions from aircraft, vehicles, construction, and buildings.	Potential dust emissions during soil removal, site grading and construction, and increased vehicle traffic. Emissions from the new building.	Growth at Buckley AFB and Aurora will result in increased traffic and emissions.	Minor effect from emissions of CO, O ₃ and PM ₁₀ .
Noise	Aircraft activities are a dominant noise source.	Aircraft activities are a dominant noise source.	Short-term noise from construction activities.	Base growth will result in increased noise associated with construction and traffic.	Aircraft activities would be dominant noise source. Negligible effect.
Soils	Past urban and Buckley AFB development has modified soils.	None.	Grading, excavating, and soil recontouring would result in further soil disturbance.	Continued development of Buckley AFB would locally impact soils.	Minor, adverse impacts from localized but permanent soil disturbances.

Table 4-1
Cumulative Effects on Resources

Resource	Past Actions	Current Background Activities	Proposed Actions	Known Future Actions	Cumulative Effects
Water Resources	Surface water quality moderately impacted by development and past disposal practices.	Surface water quality moderately impacted by development.	Potential sedimentation from construction; increase in impervious surfaces; and increase in stormwater flows.	Continued development of Buckley AFB would result in sedimentation from construction and increase in impervious surface areas.	Increased impervious area would have minor impacts on storm water discharges and water quality.
Biological Resources	Degraded historic habitat of sensitive and common wildlife species.	Buckley AFB and Aurora operations and development impact wildlife and their habitat.	Minor loss of vegetation [approximately 1.6 ac (0.64 ha)]. Permanent loss of black-tailed prairie dogs and their habitat, as well as burrowing owl habitat.	Continued development of Buckley AFB would impact vegetation communities and wildlife habitat.	Minor effects from permanent loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat; loss of black-tailed prairie dogs and their habitat; and loss of burrowing owl habitat.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Clean up of IRP sites.	Clean up of IRP sites.	No impacts are expected at the site from hazardous materials and/or waste.	Continued development of Buckley AFB would incur use or generation of hazardous materials and wastes.	Negligible effect since all hazardous materials and wastes used or generated during project implementation would be used and disposed of according to all applicable regulations.
Solid Waste and Pollution Prevention	Implementation of solid waste and P2 programs.	Implementation of solid waste and P2 programs.	No major changes to P2 initiatives or solid waste generation are anticipated following construction activities.	Implementation of solid waste and P2 programs.	Implementation of solid waste and P2 programs would have beneficial effects.
Transportation	Preparation of Buckley AFB General Plan and development in the city of Aurora.	Implementation of Buckley AFB General Plan and development in the city of Aurora.	Consistent with Buckley AFB General Plan, thus, negligible impact to current or planned activities on base or in Aurora due to changing traffic patterns, capacity, and volume.	Continued development of Buckley AFB and Aurora would result in increased traffic.	Increased traffic would have minor impact on transportation network.

Table 4-1
Cumulative Effects on Resources

Resource	Past Actions	Current Background Activities	Proposed Actions	Known Future Actions	Cumulative Effects
Utilities	Development on base and in the city of Aurora.	Development on base and in the city of Aurora.	No upgrades are expected to be needed for potable water, electric, natural gas, and sanitary networks. No adverse impacts are anticipated on utilities.	Continued development of Buckley AFB and Aurora would result in a continued increase in utility demands.	Increased demand for public utility services would not be a major impact to regional or local energy supplies.
Environmental Justice	Past impacts to Environmental Justice populations have been dependent on resource areas impacted by past projects.	---	No adverse impacts are anticipated to low-income or minority populations.	No adverse impacts are anticipated to low-income or minority populations.	No adverse impacts are anticipated to low-income or minority populations.

SECTIONFIVE

List of Preparers

This EA has been prepared under the direction of DoD and Buckley AFB. The individuals who contributed to the preparation of this document are listed below.

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Patricia Mehlhop U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 134 Union Boulevard Lakewood, CO 80228	David Rathke United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8 999 18th Street, Suite 300 Denver, CO 80202-2466
Bruce Rosenlund U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 755 Parfet, Suite 496 Lakewood CO 80215	Larry Svoboda NEPA Unit Chief U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 999 18 th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2466
Nancy Chick Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Air Pollution Control Division 4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South Denver, CO 80246-1530	Dan Beley Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality Control Division 4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South Denver, CO 80246-1530
Robert Watkins Director of Planning City of Aurora 15151 East Alameda Aurora, CO 80012	Jim Paulmeno Manager Environmental Planning Colorado Department of Transportation 4201 East Arkansas Avenue Denver, CO 80222
Jane Hann Environmental Project Manager Colorado Department of Transportation 4201 East Arkansas Avenue Denver, CO 80222	Jerry Craig Colorado Department of Wildlife Wildlife Research Center 317 West Prospect Road Ft. Collins, CO 80526

SECTION SIX

Distribution List and Agencies and Individuals Contacted

Denver Public Library
Government Documents Section
10 West 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204

University Government Public Library
Campus Box 184
Boulder, CO 80309-0184

Aurora Central Library
14949 East Alameda Drive
Aurora, CO 80012

40 CFR 93.153(b) - These limits are applicable to non-attainment and maintenance areas, and therefore, apply to Buckley AFB.

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460 Space Wing. 2004 Annual Economic Impact. September 2004.

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Appendix A
Air Force 813 Form

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REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Report Control Symbol
CRWU073004

INSTRUCTIONS: Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on Separate Sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).

SECTION I - PROPOSER INFORMATION

1. TO (Environmental Planning Function)	2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol)	2a. TELEPHONE NO.
460 CES/CEV	460 CES/CECP	303-677-6819
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION Security Forces Operations Facility		

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (Identify decision to be made and need date).

Construct a 30,117 SF Security Forces Operations Facility. The facility is required to provide administrative and operational space for most of the Security Forces Squadron. The facility will house Central Security Control, Law Enforcement, Resource Protection, Personnel Security, Information Security, and Training. There will no more than 2 detention cells, and an armory. The project is required to consolidate the Security Forces Operations into a single, properly sized and configured facility. The facility will have the capacity to house approximately 75 personnel. Portions of the facility will be operational 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPPA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action).

See attached

6. PROPOSER APPROVAL (Name and Grade)	6a. SIGNATURE	6b. DATE
Charles Nicely, GS-11	<i>Charles Nicely</i>	16 Jun 04
SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. (Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = Unknown effect.)		+ 0 - U
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)		X
8. AIR QUALITY (emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.) Fugitive dust during construction;		X
9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.) Stormwater during and after construction		X
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, etc.) Safety During construction		X
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.) Use of hazardous materials during construction.		X
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodplains, flora, fauna, etc) Potential adverse effects to prairie dogs and/or burrowing owls.		X
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archeological, historical, etc.)		X
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)		X
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.) Assuming the additional employees currently reside in the local commuting area.		X
16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.)		

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

17. <input type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX #) _____: OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.

18. REMARKS

19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade)	19a. SIGNATURE	19b. DATE
Elise L. Sherva, GS-12	<i>Elise L. Sherva</i>	2/17/04

Appendix B
Notice Of Availability And Affidavit Of Publication

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**AURORA SENTINEL
PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

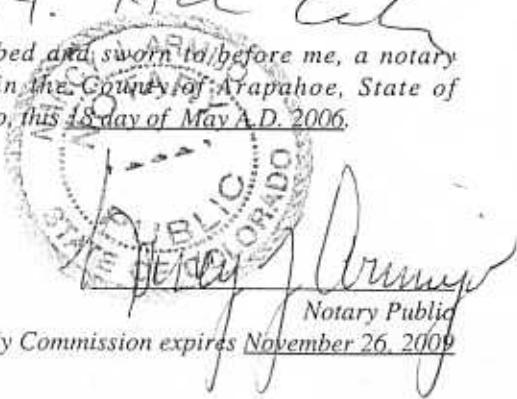
**STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE Jss.**

I HARRISON COCHRAN, do solemnly swear that I am the PUBLISHER of the AURORA SENTINEL; that the same is a weekly newspaper published in the County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado and has a general circulation therein; that said newspaper has been published continuously and uninterrupted in said County of Arapahoe for a period of more than fifty-two consecutive weeks prior to the first publication of the annexed legal notice or advertisement; that said newspaper has been admitted to the United States mails as second-class matter under the provisions of the Act of March 30, 1923, entitled "Legal Notices and Advertisements", or any amendments thereof, and that said newspaper is a weekly newspaper duly qualified for publishing legal notices and advertisements within the meaning of the laws of the State of Colorado.

That the annexed legal notice or advertisement was published in the regular and entire issue of every number of said weekly newspaper for the period of 1 consecutive insertions; and that the first publication of said notice was in the issue of said newspaper dated May 18 A.D. 2006 and that the last publication of said notice was in the issue of said newspaper dated May 18 A.D. 2006.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18 day of May.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public in the County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, this 18 day of May A.D. 2006.



**Notice Of Availability for Security
Forces Operations Facility
Environmental Assessment**

at Buckley AFB

Interested parties are hereby notified that Buckley Air Force Base (BAFB) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed construction and operation of a Security Forces Operations Facility (SFOF).

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law [PL] 91-190, 42 United States Code 4321 et seq.) as amended in 1975 by PL 94-52 and PL 94-83.

Purpose. The purpose of this project is to provide a centralized SFOF that is located away from sensitive mission-related resources at BAFB and that supports the expanding mission of the base. The SFOF is needed to provide adequate space for Security Forces operations that meets the requirements of Part II Military Handbook 1190, "Facility Planning and Design," and Section I, 15.18.3 "Category Code 730-835, Security Police Operations" of Air Force Handbook 32-1084 "Facilities Requirements."

In addition to the Proposed Action, a No-Action Alternative and two alternative locations for the SFOF on Buckley AFB were considered and evaluated in the EA. The proposed facility functions would remain the same under each action alternative.

Comments. Comments on the Draft EA should be directed to Ms. Janet Wade, 460 CES/CEV, 660 S. Aspen Street (Stop 86), Bldg. 1005, Room 254, BAFB, Colorado 80011-9551 (720) 847-9977. The comment period is open for 30 days from <<INSERT DATE>>, following the publication of this notice in a general circulation newspaper. Copies of the Draft EA are available for review by the public at the Aurora Central Library 14449 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora, Colorado 80012; Denver Public Library, Government Documents Section, 10 West 14th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204; and the Boulder Public Library 1000 Canyon Blvd., Boulder, Colorado 80302. Copies may also be obtained by writing to BAFB at the address listed above.

Publication: May 18, 2006
Aurora Sentinel

THE Denver Newspaper Agency
DENVER, CO

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

City and County of Denver,
STATE OF COLORADO, SS.

Diane Trujillo

..... being of lawful
age and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

Legal Advertising Reviewer

That he/she is the
Of The Denver Newspaper Agency, publisher of the Denver Post and
Rocky Mountain News, daily newspapers of general circulation published
and printed in whole or in part in Denver, in the County of Denver and
State of Colorado, and that said newspaper was Prior to and during
all the time hereinafter mentioned duly qualified For the publication of
legal notices and advertisements within the Meaning of an Act of the
General Assembly of the State of Colorado,
Approved April 7, 1921, as amended and approved March 30, 1923;
And as amended and approved March 5, 1935, entitled "An Act
Concerning Legal Notices, Advertisements and Publications and the
Fees of printers and publishers thereof, and to repeal all acts and parts
Of acts in conflict with the provision of this Act" and amendments
Thereto:

That the notice, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in
The said newspaper to wit: (dates of publication)

May 14, 2006

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15 day

Of ... May ... A.D. 2006.

Susan Sloan

Notary Public.

My commission expires



Notice Of Availability for Security Forces Operations
Facility Environmental Assessment at Buckley AFB

Interested parties are hereby notified that Buckley Air Force Base (BAFB) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed construction and operation of a Security Forces Operations Facility (SFOF).

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law [PL] 91-190, 42 United States Code 4321 et seq.) as amended in 1972 by PL 94-52 and PL 94-83.

Purpose. The purpose of this project is to provide a centralized SFOF that is located away from sensitive mission-related resources at BAFB and that supports the expanding mission of the base. The SFOF is intended to provide adequate space for Security Forces components that meets the requirements of Part II Military Handbook 11P, "Facility Planning and Design" and Section 1, 15183.4 "Category Code 730-833, Security Police Operations" of Air Force Handbook 32-1064 "Facilities Requirements".

In addition to the Proposed Action, a No-Action Alternative and two alternative locations for the SFOF on Buckley AFB were considered and evaluated in the EA. The proposed facility functions would remain the same under each action alternative.

Comments. Comments on the Draft EA should be directed to Mr. Bruce James, 400 CES/CEV, 660 S. Aspen Street (Stop 86), Bldg. 1005, Room 178, Buckley AFB, Colorado 80011-7351, (303) 847-7245. The comment period is open for 30 days from 15 May 06, following the publication of this notice in a general circulation newspaper. Copies of the Draft EA are available for review by the public at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora, Colorado 80011; Denver Public Library, Government Documents Section, 10 West, 14th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204; and the Boulder Public Library 1000 Canyon Blvd., Boulder, Colorado 80302. Copies may also be obtained by writing to BAFB at the address listed above.

Appendix C
Interagency Coordination Letters

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

MAY 10 2006

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of an Education Center and a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

Dear CAG Member

This letter is to inform you of the availability of the above-mentioned draft environmental assessments for activities at Buckley Air Force Base. The draft environmental assessments will be available for public viewing from 15 May 2006 to 15 June 2006 at the Aurora Central Library located at 14949 East Alameda Drive, Aurora, Colorado, the CU-Boulder University Government Public Library, 1770 Pleasant Street, Boulder, CO 80309 and at the Denver Public Library, Government Documents Section, located at 10 West 14th Avenue, Denver, Colorado. If you have any questions or comments please direct them to:

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/CEVP
660 South Aspen Street Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551
720-847-9077
Email bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.

Comments must be received by Monday, June 19, 2006.

Sincerely,



MR BRUCE R.JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Owens, Governor
Dennis E. Ellis, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
Phone (303) 692-2000
TDD Line (303) 691-7700
Located in Glendale, Colorado
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>

Laboratory Services Division
8100 Lowry Blvd.
Denver, Colorado 80230-6928
(303) 692-3090



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

June 13, 2006

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/EVP
660 South Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9551

Dear Mr. James:

RE: Draft Environmental Assessments for Education Center and for Proposed Security Forces Operations Facility, Buckley Air Force base, Colorado dated March 2006

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division (the Division) has reviewed the above referenced documents received May 16, 2006. The Division has the following general comments on the Environmental Assessments (EA):

The Air Force Environmental Restoration Program is conducting a base-wide preliminary assessment, which may discover other environmental concerns not previously identified at the base, potentially in areas proposed for construction.

Education Center – The EA states that asbestos in soil is not a concern for the proposed action based on samples collected in the area. These sample results have not been provided for review. Regardless, the CDPHE has promulgated new asbestos regulations under our Solid Waste Regulations at 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1, Section 5.5, which would have to be followed in the event asbestos is discovered during construction.

Security Forces Operations Facility – The CDPHE has promulgated new asbestos regulations under our Solid Waste Regulations at 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1, Section 5.5, which would have to be followed in the event asbestos is discovered during construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 303-692-3324 or ed.larock@state.co.us if there are any questions.

Mr. Bruce James

June 13, 2006

Page 2

Sincerely,



Ed LaRock, P.G.

Environmental Protection Specialist
Hazardous Materials and Waste
Management Division

cc: Richard Lotz, AGO
Monica Sheets, CDPHE
David Rathke, EPA Region 8
File RD003-1.1



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

Mr. Bruce James
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
Environmental Flight
660 South Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

July 29 2006

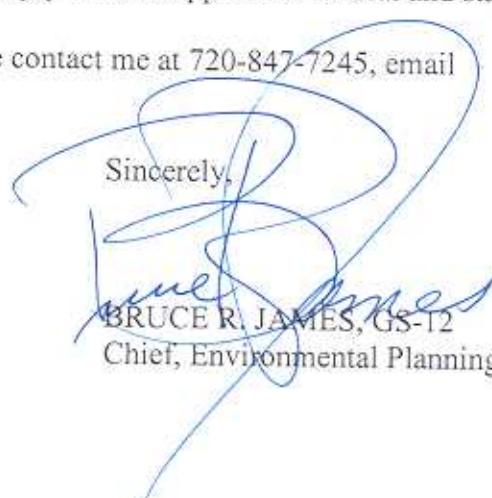
Mr. Ed LaRock, P.G.
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear Mr. LaRock

Thank you for your letter, dated 13 Jun 06, on the Environmental Assessments (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSIs) for both the proposed Education Center and the proposed Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley AFB. We appreciate your comments regarding new asbestos regulations under the Solid Waste Regulations at 6 CCR 1007-2. As noted in the draft EA, Buckley AFB will comply with all applicable federal and state regulations.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 720-847-7245, email bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.

Sincerely,


BRUCE R. JAMES, GS-12
Chief, Environmental Planning



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Librarian
University Government Public Library
Campus Box 184
Boulder, CO 80309-0184

RE: Draft Environmental Assessments for the Proposed Construction of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

Dear Librarian:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the proposed construction and operation of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. A notice of availability for this document has been published by the Denver Newspaper Agency in the local Denver newspapers. Please make this document available for public review from 15 May to 15 June 2006.

Please contact me at 720/847-7245 or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil with any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

MR BRUCE R.JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning
660 South Aspen Street Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Enclosures (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 13 2006

Librarian
Aurora Central Library
14949 East Alameda Drive
Aurora, Colorado 80012

RE: Draft Environmental Assessments for the Proposed Construction of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

Dear Librarian:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the proposed construction and operation of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. A notice of availability for this document has been published by the Denver Newspaper Agency in the local Denver newspapers. Please make this document available for public review from 15 May to 15 June 2006.

Please contact me at 720/847-7245 or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil with any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

MR BRUCE R.JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning
660 South Aspen Street Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Enclosures (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Librarian
Denver Public Library
Government Documents Section
10 West 14th Ave.
Denver, Colorado 80204

RE: Draft Environmental Assessments for the Proposed Construction of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

Dear Librarian:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the proposed construction and operation of a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. A notice of availability for this document has been published by the Denver Newspaper Agency in the local Denver newspapers. Please make this document available for public review from 15 May to 15 June 2006.

Please contact me at 720/847-7245 or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil with any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

MR BRUCE R.JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning
660 South Aspen Street Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Enclosures (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 15 2006

Mr. Bruce James
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 South Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer
Colorado History Museum
1300 Broadway
Denver CO 80203-2137

Dear Ms. Contiguglia

The Air Force has prepared two Draft Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSIs) to construct an Education Center and a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB). The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The Proposed Education Center Project and Security Forces Operations Facility are required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EAs and Draft FONSIs are included for your information, review, and comment. The Section 106 consultation request for the Security Forces Operations Facility is included with the document. The Section 106 consultation for the Education Center concurrence was received 21 Nov 05.

The public comment period for this EA is 30 days. Please provide any written comments to:

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/CEVP
660 South Aspen Street Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Bruce James, Chief, Environmental Planning at 720-847-9077, Email bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.



BRUCE R. JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

5 Attachments
2 Draft EA
2 Draft FONSI
1 Section 106 Consultation



COLORADO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Colorado History Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203-2137

May 18, 2006

Bruce James
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 South Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Re: Section 106 Study for construction of Security Forces Operations Facility and Draft Environmental Assessments (EA) and Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for a Security Forces Operations Facility an Education Center at Buckley Air Force Base. (CHS #48050)

Dear Mr. James:

Thank you for your correspondences dated May 15, 2006 and received by our office on May 16, 2006 regarding the above-mentioned projects.

After review of your submitted information, we concur with the finding of *no adverse effect* under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for the Security Forces Operations Facility. On November 21, 2005, our office concurred with a finding of *no adverse effect* under Section 106 for the proposed Education Center.

The draft EAs do not address cultural resources and the Section 106 findings. We recommend adding these findings to the EAs.

If unidentified archaeological resources are discovered during construction, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register criteria, 36 CFR 60.4, in consultation with this office.

We request being involved in the consultation process with the local government, which as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 is required to be notified of the undertaking, and with other consulting parties. Additional information provided by the local government or consulting parties might cause our office to re-evaluate our eligibility and potential effect findings.

Please note that our compliance letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Amy Pallante, our Section 106 Compliance Coordinator, at (303) 866-4678.

Sincerely,


Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Floyd Hatch/Buckley Air Force Base



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

John Fernandez
Planning, Environmental Division
City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda
Aurora CO 80012

Dear Mr. Fernandez

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

The public comment period for this EA is 30 days. Please provide any written comments to:

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/CEVP
660 S Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 720-847-7245, or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.


BRUCE JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

ATTACHMENTS:
Draft EA
Draft FONSI



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12, 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Mac Callison
Planning, Traffic Division
City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda
Aurora CO 80012

Dear Mr. Callison

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

The public comment period for this EA is 30 days. Please provide any written comments to:

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/CEVP
660 S Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 720-847-7245, or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.


BRUCE JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

ATTACHMENTS:
Draft EA
Draft FONSI



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12, 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Jane Hann
Environmental Project Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 East Arkansas Ave.
Denver CO 80222

Dear Ms. Hann

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

The public comment period for this EA is 30 days. Please provide any written comments to:

Mr. Bruce James
460 CES/CEVP
660 S Aspen Street, Stop 86
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 720-847-7245, or via e-mail at bruce.james@buckley.af.mil.


BRUCE JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

ATTACHMENTS:
Draft EA
Draft FONSI



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

Mr. Bruce James
 Environmental Flight
 460th Civil Engineer Squadron
 660 S. Aspen Street
 Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Jim Paulmeno
 Manager Environmental Planning
 Colorado Department of Transportation
 4201 East Arkansas Ave.
 Denver CO 80222

Dear Mr. Paulmeno

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

09/12/2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Dan Beley
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Water Quality Control Division
4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South
WQCD-OA-B2
Denver CO 80246-1530

Dear Mr. Beley

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Nancy Chick
Air Pollution Control Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
APCD-TS-B24300
Cherry Creek Drive, South
Denver CO 80246-1530

Dear Ms. Chick

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Ed LaRock
Federal Facilities HMWM 2800
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South
Denver CO 80246-1530

Dear Mr. LaRock

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2005

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

David Rathke
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver CO 80202

Dear Mr Rathke

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12, 2005

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Robert Watkins
Director of Planning
City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda
Aurora CO 80012

Dear Mr. Watkins

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Larry Svoboda
NEPA Unit Chief
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver CO 80202

Dear Mr. Svoboda

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Jerry Craig
Wildlife Researcher
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Wildlife Research Center
317 W. Prospect Road
Fort Collins CO 80526

Dear Mr. Craig

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BRUCE JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Patricia Mehlhop
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 25486
Denver CO 80225-0486

Dear Ms. Mehlhop

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460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Eliza Moore
Wildlife Manager
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 South Broadway
Denver CO 80216

Dear Ms. Moore

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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BRUCE JAMES
Chief, Environmental Planning

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

May 12, 2004

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 S. Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Eugene Jansak
Industrial Waste Specialist
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
6450 York Street
Denver CO 80229-7499

Dear Mr. Jansak

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

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460TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

MAY 12 2006

Mr. Bruce James
Environmental Flight
460th Civil Engineer Squadron
660 South Aspen Street
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9551

Mr. Bruce Rosenlund
Colorado Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
755 Parfet Street, Suite 496
Lakewood CO 80215

Dear Mr. Rosenlund

The Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to construct a Security Forces Operations Facility at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB), CO. The proposed actions are part of the 5-year capital improvements program at the base to achieve the overall goal of turning a former Air National Guard base into a fully functioning, active-duty AFB. The proposed project is required to support the 460th Space Wing mission and improve quality of life for on-site, off-site, and retired personnel. We have assessed the potential environmental effects of the Security Forces Operations Facility and determined that the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect federally listed and candidate species. We are requesting initiation of Section 7 consultation per the Endangered Species Act. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are attached for your information, review, and comment.

The public comment period for this EA is 30 days. Please provide any written comments to:

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460 CES/CEVP
660 South Aspen Street, Stop 86
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